

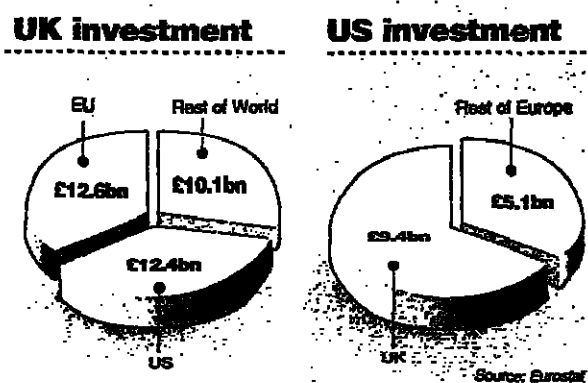


In *The Guardian* G2 today: The agony of the families whose babies were switched at birth

+ Francis Wheen + Inside Story + N&Q + Portrait + Arts + Society + Television, Radio & European Weather

Other EU members all do more trade with each other □ Investment figures likely to be seized on by Eurosceptics opposing euro

Economy moves Britain closer to US



Martin Walker in Brussels

MARKET forces are driving the economy closer to the United States, despite government appeals for Britain to prepare for the European single currency.

The US invested almost twice as much in Britain last year as in the rest of the European Union. And Britain alone accounted for two-thirds of all European investment in the US, investing nearly as much there as it did in Europe.

Britain is by far the biggest foreign investor and the biggest European recipient of foreign investment, and of all the EU countries it trades least with its European partners. As a result, it is far more integrated into the global economy than the rest of Europe, according to the latest annual investment surveys published yesterday by Eurostat, the official statistical arm of the EU.

The difference in investment patterns between France and Britain, the two biggest investors in Europe, is extraordinary. Britain last year received £21 billion, of which just over a quarter came from other EU countries. France received £14 billion in foreign investment, more than two thirds of it from other EU members.

The figures are likely to be seized on by Conservative campaigners for Britain to join the North American Free Trade Association, as recommended by the Speaker of the US Congress, Republican Newt Gingrich. The EU trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, has warned Conservatives that joining Nafta is not legally compatible with remaining in the EU, but the idea is championed by eurosceptics as an alternative to Europe.

The new investment statistics are matched by Eurostat's trade figures. On average EU members do two-thirds of their trade with other EU countries. Britain lags behind, with the EU accounting for only 64 per cent of its combined exports and imports.

The Eurostat investment figures, which cover the whole of 1997, take little account of the Asian financial crisis which has stalled Korean and Japanese investment in Britain, or of the decision by Siemens of Germany to abort its computer chip factory in the North-east.

Britain remains a huge net investor abroad, sending out over £25 billion last year, while foreign companies invested only £21 billion in Britain. But this capital flow from Britain was dwarfed by Germany, which suffered net disinvestment last year, as foreign companies closed or wrote off their operations in Europe's biggest economy. Meanwhile German companies looking for cheaper labour invested £20 billion abroad, 26 per cent more than in the previous year.

Police officer beaten at World Cup out of coma

Jon Henley in Paris

DANIEL Nivel, the policeman savagely beaten and left in a coma by German hooligans during the World Cup, has recovered consciousness and can now breathe without a respirator, hospital officials in the northern French town of Lille said yesterday.

"Six weeks after sustaining a serious head injury, the police officer regained consciousness on Monday. He no longer requires respiratory assistance and can spend several hours a day sitting in a chair," said a spokesman at the Lille Hospital Centre, where Mr Nivel was taken after the attack on June 21.

"He still has major problems with speaking and understanding, and the muscles on the right side of his body are badly weakened. But we are planning no further surgery and he should be moved to a rehabilitation centre within the next few weeks."

Mr Nivel, aged 43 and a father of two, had been in a deep coma with what doctors originally described as irreversible brain damage since the attack outside the stadium in Lens where Germany were playing Yugoslavia.

The savagery of the assault, in which the policeman was set upon by up to 20 hooligans, kicked, beaten and hit repeatedly on the head with his own tear-gas launcher, cast a shadow over the World Cup and prompted a wave of agonised soul-searching by

German politicians and media.

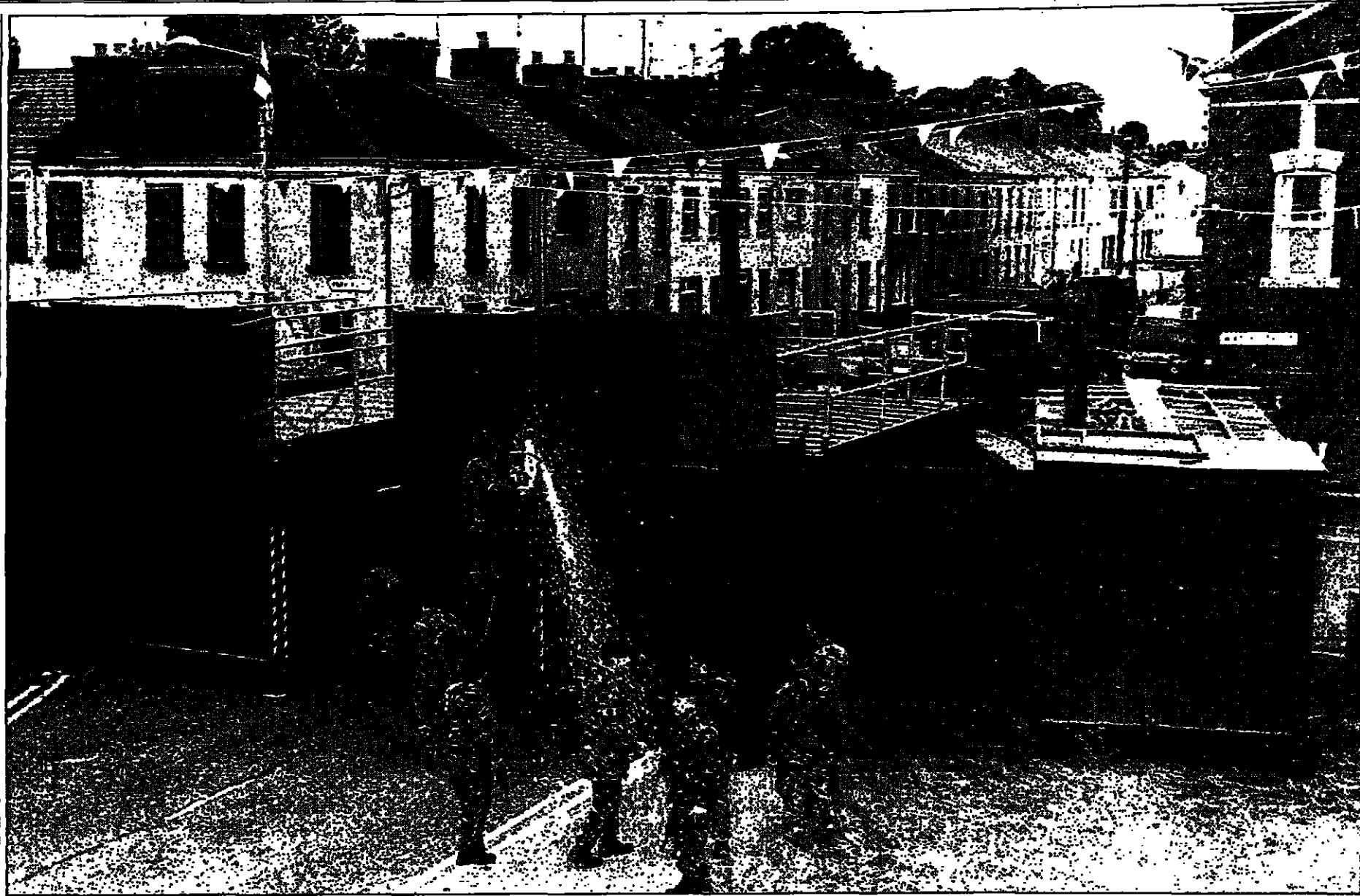
German police in Hanover on Friday arrested a fourth suspect after examining photographic and video evidence sent in by supporters. The man, identified as Christopher R, aged 23, has been charged with attempted murder.

"The German police are taking this with absolute dedication," a Lille police spokesman said. "They are going well beyond the requirements of the formal request for co-operation."

Two Germans arrested in Lens soon after the incident, Karl-Heinz Eischer and Markus Warnecke, are not now believed to have played a major role in the assault, although Mr Warnecke is still in custody in Lille.

The German magazine Der Spiegel published on Monday a detailed account of the attack, which was not denied by the state prosecutor in Hanover. It suggested that 100 German fans, running away from police, sprinted into the narrow street where Mr Nivel and two colleagues were guarding police vehicles. The two other policemen fled, and a smaller group of 20 fans then attacked Mr Nivel.

The German Football Federation has collected some £200,000 from clubs and German police for a Daniel Nivel foundation, while newspapers have raised nearly £100,000 for the family. A benefit match between former French and German internationals is scheduled for September 20 outside Strasbourg.



Soldiers putting a gateway in a barrier across Garvaghy Road last month. Protestants in the predominantly Catholic road want a 'peace wall' to protect them. PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GILES

Wall may split Portadown

Garvaghy Road Protestants seek protection from sectarian attack

Rory Carroll

THE Government is considering building a "peace wall" on Portadown's Garvaghy Road to protect a Protestant enclave which claims it is under siege from Catholics.

The barrier would become the first such in Northern Ireland outside Belfast, but would not affect the annual stand-off when Orangemen seek to march down the road from Drumcree Church.

The move has enraged Catholics who claim they are the persecuted minority in Portadown, which is 80 per cent Protestant and the heartland of the terrorist Loyalist Volunteer Force.

However, Kenny McClinton, a pastor, said a clump of

Protestant houses at one end of the predominantly Catholic road was regularly attacked. "People need to feel safe in their homes. Everybody knows the negative aspects of a peace line but unfortunately it is a necessity for the area."

Protestant residents said they resented Catholics manipulating the media into giving them the "monopoly" victimhood during the Drumcree stand-off. "No one listens when we say what's going on. It just sickens you when they go on about the siege when it's us that's being attacked," said a woman who identified herself only as Louise.

Catholics, however, scoffed at the planning application. "If they want to build peace lines in Portadown I can show them where to build them. There are Catholic communi-

ties here under nightly attacks by loyalist mobs," said Brendan MacDonnall, spokesman for the Catholic residents.

Gangs have regularly beaten Catholic youths, once fatally, within yards of police Land Rovers. Teenagers say they are unable to go into Portadown high street for fear of being identified.

Belfast has up to a dozen reinforced walls separating the two communities. The main peace line between the Falls and the Shankhill Road stretches for three miles. In Londonderry permanent fences separate Catholics and Protestants.

Opinion is split over whether the barriers enhance security or spawn deeper divisions and marginalise communities.

Catholics described the request for a peace wall as either cheeky or a propaganda attempt by Protestants to reclaim moral high ground.

They denied that stones were thrown at Protestant homes.

Brid Rodgers, of the Social Democratic Labour Party, said: "It really would be a step forward if people could negotiate instead of building more walls leading to further isolation between the two communities."

The Northern Ireland Office confirmed a request for a peace line was being considered. "We have received a number of requests including from elected representatives for a peace line at the lower end of the Garvaghy Road. We are currently taking advice for a variety of sources including the RUC and will be considering this advice. No decision has yet been made."

Portadown Orangemen are continuing to lodge applications with the Parades Commission to march down the Garvaghy Road. A few brethren are maintaining a token presence at the barrier blocking the route.



Daniel Nivel: attacked by gang of German hooligans

Committee rift over role of spokesman Campbell

continued from page 1

that at the end of the day there is no evidence that he stands up and says 'Vote Labour, all Tories are bastards'."

Labour members also rejected a Tory amendment calling for lapses of lobby briefings with journalists to be kept for 12 months, rather than wiped after a few weeks as at present. The Labour MPs claim the Tories are drawing absurd parallels between the twice-daily media briefings and private phone calls taped during the Watergate scandal.

MPs on all sides agree that the 1,000-strong Government Information Service, which was meant to be the focus of the inquiry, is overstretched.

The majority report calls for the service to be reviewed with a view to expanding it to keep pace with the needs of 24-hour media.

"The GIS has the feel of the seventies or eighties," a committee member said. "The whole world of communications has altered dramatically, and it has not kept pace."

The Tory and Liberal Democrat members are angry that the report does not address concerns about top-level departures from the service. Between last May and June this year, 25 heads of information or deputies left, amid claims that the Government prefers political sympathisers drawn from outside to career civil servants.

Praise Wayne and pass the marge

Review

Adam Sweeting

Wayne Sleep

Coliseum, London

THINGS are not running smoothly in Wayne's world. Last week, the famously compact helicopterman found himself in the middle of a bad-tempered interview in the Evening Standard. On Sunday, on the eve of his season at the Coliseum, one of his dancers sprained an ankle and forced the company into frantic readjustments.

After the opening salvo of Dash in UV, a riot of pinks, greens, lilacs and pale blues, set to twinkling chamber music, Wayne paused to tell his audience: "These things happen. Dancers are like highly strung racehorses. But we decided the show must go on." If the whole lot goes pear-shaped, he added, would we mind awfully not minding too much? A symphonic crowd applauded enthusiastically.

In the event, the proceedings whirled along with commendable efficiency, and if there was a lack of passion and heart-stopping drama, that was more to do with the choice of pieces and the deliberate easy-watching tone than with backstage glitches.

The things in Sleep's favour are his eclecticism and his willingness to be naïf in the cause of show business. Above all, we should congratulate the exuberant little fellow for acknowledging that nine out of 10 punters, including your correspondent, find that the rituals of classical ballet provoke a few seconds of spitting disbelief, followed by a profound coma which can only be reversed by powerful shots of vodka.

Not that we got away too readily. Wayne was eager to showcase his Estonian guest stars, Thomas Edur and Agnes Oakes, and that old-fashioned stuff is their stock in trade. They gave it maximum spunkiness and white satin waistcoat

in the Act 3 pas de deux from Sleeping Beauty, and did all that banging-your-feet-together-in-mid-air business in the pas de deux from Giselle.

Far superior was the Kirk Peterson choreography in L'Après Midi d'un Faune, where the show generated some semblance of an erotic charge, while there was some welcome sardonic wit in William Kemp's It Takes Two To ... a very tableau of a three-way relationship.

Duty compels us to note Sleep's Tribute To Diana, a glutinous dollop of tackiness against a giant backdrop of Sleep and the princess dancing at Covent Garden. As official Diana merchandise goes, I'll take the margarine.

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The Guardian

As a 20-year keep awake and that will look all her



Volcanic ash belching terrifyingly over the Soufriere Hills on Montserrat last July, when 15 people were killed as the volcano erupted and survivors were forced to flee to the north of the Caribbean island and appeal for aid from Britain



Robin Cook — Foreign Secretary

Rival government departments accused of causing 'tensions and inefficiencies', and a 'lack of political will' amid power struggle



Clare Short — International Development

Ministers caught in Montserrat fallout

Robin Cook and Clare Short are blamed for the shambolic handling of the island volcano disaster, Ewen MacAskill reports

STINGING criticism of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, was delivered yesterday by MPs investigating the aftermath of the Montserrat volcano disaster.

A Commons International Development Committee report complained of poor co-ordination between the two Cabinet ministers' departments, "unnecessary tensions and inefficiencies", and a "lack of political will".

The Conservative spokesman on development issues, Gary Streeter, said the report showed it was impossible to tell who was in charge in the Department for International Development (DFID).

"Is it Robin Cook or Clare Short who will take responsibility for the Montserrat shambles? What specific steps will be taken to ensure there is no more of this bungling incompetence?"

When the volcano erupted in July last year on the Caribbean island, a British dependent territory, killing 19, survivors fled to the safer northern part of the island and the Royal Navy was sent to help.

Ms Short ran into controversy over her reported response to a request from the Montserratian government for help from the UK. "They'll be asking for golden elephants next." But she said it was taken out of context.

Scientists are investigating the risk of further big eruptions from the volcano.

'What steps will be taken to ensure there is no more of this incompetence?'

The all-party committee protested that a report it issued last November pointing out flaws in the relationship between the two departments had been largely ignored.

A spokesman for the Department for International Development yesterday rejected the criticism, insisting many of the problems had been ironed out.

"We think we have made progress and it is beginning to bear fruit," he said. A £75

million sustainable development plan was being implemented to help the islanders.

The Foreign Office said: "We have arrangements where the two departments have revised structures in place or coming into place."

The Montserrat disaster highlighted a turf war between the Foreign Office and DFID. Before the general election, DFID's predecessor, the Overseas Development Agency, had been part of the Foreign Office, and there was resentment in the Foreign Office when it was made a separate department.

In an earlier report, the select committee complained of unnecessary duplication and lack of co-ordination between the two departments, and argued that dependent

territories had decided to maintain the existing situation, which meant future rescue operations were likely to run into problems.

The committee, in its most damning passage, said: "Experience over Montserrat suggests that when difficult decisions have to be taken quickly this spirit of co-operation between the departments is placed under severe strain."

"There will always be unnecessary tensions and weaknesses if DFID money is used to fund Foreign and Commonwealth Office political priorities."

The MPs added: "The real reason for a continuation of the status quo is a lack of political will, a point effectively admitted by Clare Short who agreed with the committee that the dependent territories involved a different set of responsibilities than the rest of our aid and development responsibilities." The Conservatives said the report exposed the Government's handling of international development as a "shambles".

The committee pointed out that over the next three years aid for Montserrat will amount to £25,000 for each resident, compared to the equivalent of 11p a year given to each inhabitant of India. It welcomed expenditure on Montserrat, saying Britain "has a duty to reconstruct society on the island and ensure that a viable future is secured".

US court jails sky rage attacker

Judge praises off-duty pilot as in-flight hooliganism rockets

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

AN OFF-DUTY pilot on an airliner that two passengers threatened to bring down in a "sky rage" attack told a Los Angeles court yesterday that he was so alarmed he considered killing the woman assailant with an axe to prevent her from entering the cockpit.

In one of the harshest sentences handed out during a spate of similar offences, the male assailant, Thomas Kasper, was sentenced to three years in prison for causing the flight disruption.

His companion, Susan Callahan, was earlier sentenced to two years in prison for attempting to enter the cockpit.

In delivering the sentence, the federal judge Dickran Terkizian told the off-duty pilot he would have been "justified" in using the axe "to save that plane and those passengers".

The judge said: "This business of disrupting airline flights is getting more serious every day."

The court heard that Kasper boarded the Continental Airlines plane carrying 130 passengers from Houston to Los Angeles while he was under the influence of amphetamines. After stewards

had denied his request to be upgraded to first class, he went to the front of the plane and shouted: "We're taking this plane down."

Kasper tried to open the emergency door, and a flight attendant, Mariene McDonnell, went to stop him. As they struggled, Kasper seized two coffee pots and began brandishing them, scolding McDonnell's hands.

During this skirmish Callahan ran towards the cockpit door, a court heard at her trial earlier this year. It was then that the off-duty pilot stopped her.

Yesterday the judge also ordered Kasper to pay the stewardess \$10,000 (£6,130) in compensation.

In flights to and from Britain in the past five years the number of disruptive passengers removed from aircraft has increased fourfold. Crew members have been assaulted, passengers threatened and cabins damaged.

More than half those arrested for serious disturbances on board flights in and out of Britain last year were classed as either drunk or on drugs, and one in 10 had to be handcuffed.

Roy Humphreys of the UK Flight Safety Committee said: "I hope it's not going to take a crash before the authorities start taking this problem seriously."

Last month the pressure group Alcohol Concern called for a complete ban on free alcohol being served on board. US airline pilots have suggested passengers be limited to one drink an hour during a flight.

Ailing Havel critical after surgery

Owen Bowcott

VACLAV HAVEL, the ailing Czech president who led the bloodless 1989 overthrow of the communist regime, yesterday lapsed into a critical condition in a Prague military hospital and had to be revived with electric shocks.

Until recently a chain-smoker, the playwright, aged 61, has long suffered from bronchitis and pneumonia. He has been in hospital five times since December 1996, when a tumour and a third of his lung were removed.

Fears about his health have cast a shadow over the political future of the Czech Republic. His popularity survived his marriage to a young actress, Dagmar, barely a year after his first wife's death.

On Monday doctors performed an emergency tracheotomy — opening a breathing hole in the throat — to facilitate use of a ventilator.

But yesterday Mr Havel's heart rate raced to 200 beats a minute because of blood poisoning brought on by pneumonia, and his blood pressure fell to a critical level, his doctor, Jiri Kotik, revealed.

"This was not a case of clinical death, because his blood circulation did not stop," Dr Kotik said. "His condition was temporarily critical. We reacted to this situation, which was urgent in the short term, with electric current followed by intensive medical therapy."

Last month Mr Havel had abdominal surgery to close a

colostomy, but his recovery was complicated by breathing problems and infections.

Last night his condition was said to have stabilised.

his heart rate was "almost normal" and signs of blood poisoning were receding.

"The president is awake now, and we communicate through written notes as usual," another doctor, Bohumil Limberk, said.

Even if he suffers no further setbacks, Mr Havel is expected to take at least two months to recover before returning to office.

He has no clear successor. After the June 19-20 election, Mr Havel was forced to accept a minority government led by the Social Democrats, the first leftwing administration since the revolution. The government, led Milos Zeman, is expected to win a vote of confidence on August 18 thanks to an uneasy agreement with the largest centre-right party.

President Vaclav Havel: Revived with electric shocks

colostomy, but his recovery was complicated by breathing problems and infections.

Last night his condition was said to have stabilised.



'As a 20-year-old student, I had only managed to keep awake through one play, since I was seven, and that was when I was 15 and the girl in Equus took all her clothes off.'

Harry Enfield

Arts, G2 page 10



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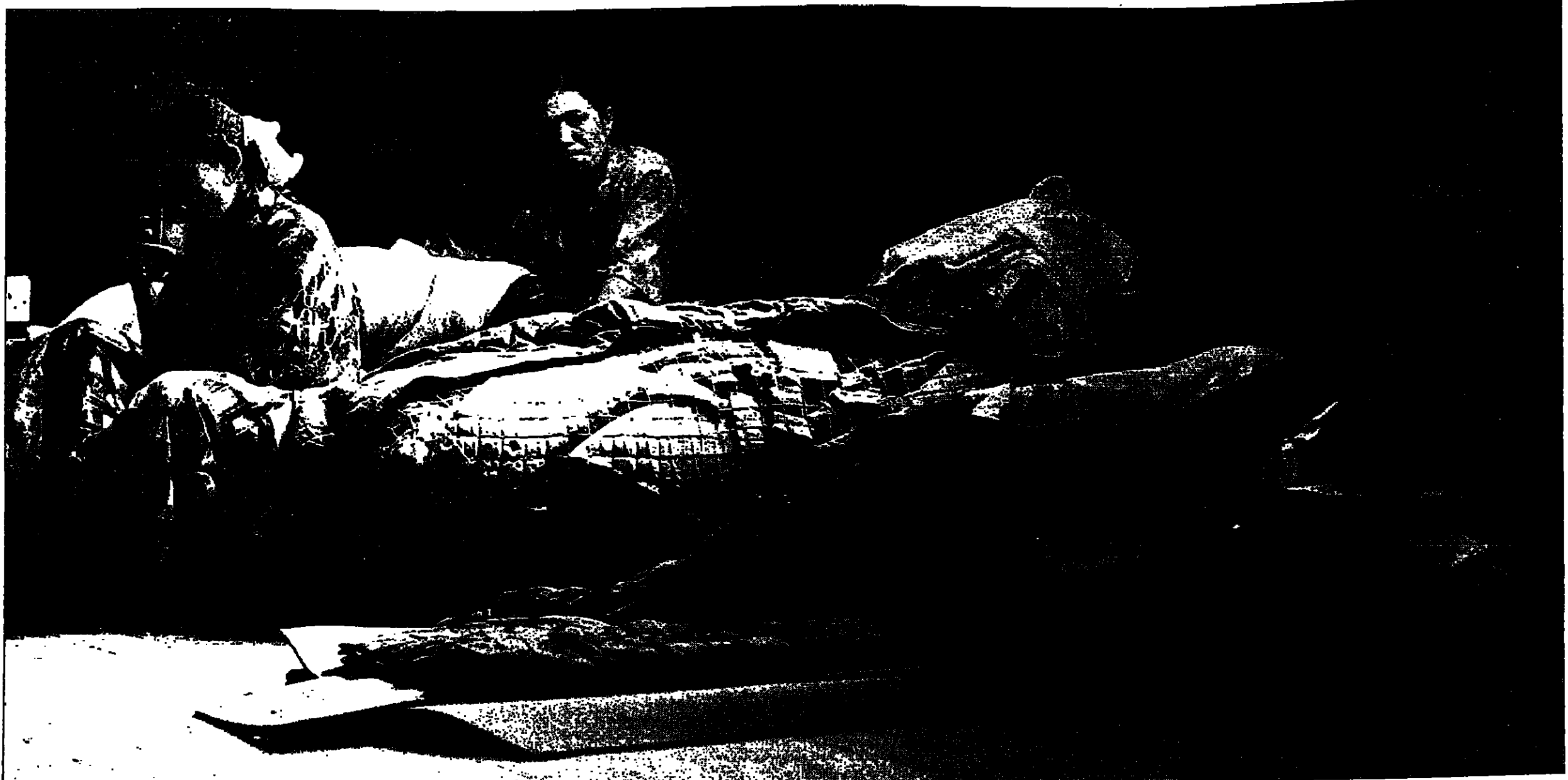
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Romanian refugees facing an uncertain future at the Rathangan parish hall, in County Wexford, yesterday, as the Irish Republic drafts legislation aimed at curbing immigration, amid charges of xenophobia

PHOTOGRAPH BY DYLAN VAUGHAN

Dublin curbs Romanian immigration

The tourist slogan 'Ireland of the Welcomes' has become a thing of the past as refugees pour in, reports **Rory Carroll**

THE Irish Republic has mobilised police, legislators, diplomats and freight companies to stop a flow of Romanian immigrants before hysteria slides into xenophobia and kills a national myth: the tourist-board slogan Ireland of the Welcomes. Politicians and newspaper editors have been accused of fueling panic over the 100 Romanian asylum seekers — mostly

Yesterday John O'Donoghue, the justice minister, warned truck and ferry companies over the smuggled Romanians, who now number about 1,500. The Irish embassy in Paris has asked the French government to crack down on Cherbourg port authorities, who are accused of turning a blind eye to families hiding inside Ireland-bound containers. Newspaper headlines warn that hundreds more arrivals are imminent.

One boy aged five almost died from fumes during the 16 hour journey while his family squatted in darkness eating dog food. The government warned freight companies that discovering a container load

of poisoned corpses was a real possibility. The initial welcome and compassion has in some quarters degenerated into hostility. A front page editorial in the *Wexford People* newspaper claimed refugees in designer clothes were eating in restaurants and living in posh apartments, courtesy of the Irish taxpayer. It also claimed asylum seekers were running up streets waving social welfare cheques, digging up fields to steal vegetables, frightening old women living alone and attempting to seduce and impregnate impressionable young Irish girls because a baby would bring a passport. It warned that racial ten-

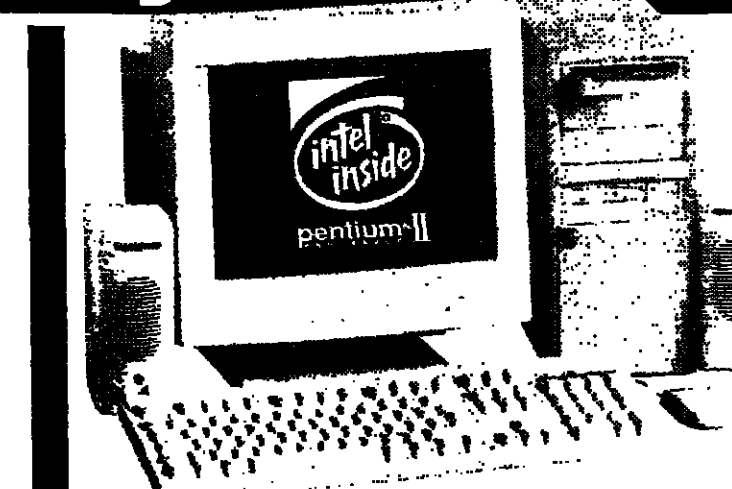
sions were near boiling point and that anger could spill into the streets. The paper's editor, Ger Walsh, rejected accusations of incitement to hatred, and said the editorial reflected how people felt. Brendan Howlin, a former government minister, said people would act "resentfully" if pressure continued to build. Newspapers more accustomed to reporting emigration statistics have described last year's net immigration of 15,000 — two thirds of it from the European Union — as a wave crashing into Ireland. Despite pleas from business and labour leaders and the Association for the Unemployed, the Government

refuses to allow asylum seekers to work in the booming economy. They draw the dole while awaiting a hearing, which can take more than a year, prompting accusations of sponging. Officials at the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform were moved by media allegations to deny publicly they were right-wing xenophobes. Mr O'Donoghue believes 90 per cent of asylum seekers are bogus. The US State Department's human rights report for 1997 states that Romania's 2 million Gypsies are subject to discrimination, harassment and violence. Treatment of refugees has triggered a national de-

bate about Ireland's self-perceived welcoming ethos, a virtue deemed necessary due to Irish emigrants' reliance on other countries' tolerance. Ireland's first anti-refugee pressure group, the Immigration Control Platform, was set up in February. The UN and the charity Trocaire chastised the government about the rise in racism and xenophobia, which goes unchallenged. Liberal campaigners have been taken aback that some of the most overt hostility comes from asylum seekers. Twelve Romanian men who arrived at Rosslare at the weekend refused to sleep in the same accommodation as 33 Gypsies who were smuggled in a

separate container on the same ship. One man who did not wish to be named said Gypsies would spoil the reputation of other Romanians. "Gypsies are a big problem in my country. They're different. They don't work, they just take and take and take." An ethnic Hungarian who fled from persecution in Transylvania said the same thing about all Romanians. "They want things for free. That's why they're here." She pointed at a newspaper article urging more tolerance. "Pah! That's wrong. Don't let them stay, send them back. You don't want them, believe me."

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Private cosmetic surgery clinics ignoring advert censure rulings

Sarah Boseley
Health Correspondent

A NUMBER of private cosmetic surgery clinics are flouting the Advertising Standards Authority's rules by re-running advertisements in glossy magazines that have been censured by the watchdog. After two years of campaigning against the clinics' misleading advertising with 39 complaints against them issued by the ASA, Asen Mohammed, an accountant who has been battling against the clinics' actions, said he may give up the fight.

"The ASA unfortunately is quite impotent regarding extravagant claims from cosmetic clinics. In my many dealings with it, I have found it unable to do anything other than correct the wording of advertisements," he said. Mr Mohammed, who turned crusader after a friend's "nose job" went wrong, added: "The ASA makes excellent decisions but the problem is it's toothless. So, what's the point of complaining?"

He began his battle after his friend responded to an advert in *Cosmopolitan*. "She went to one of these clinics which advertised saying it had fully qualified surgeons," he said. "She wanted a hump removed from her nose. After many weeks, the hump was still swollen due to some infection. It was something like five times the original size. She went to see ear, nose and throat surgeons on the NHS, but there was nothing they could do. In the end, she decided to go to the United States. They managed to put it right."

His friend wanted to sue the clinic in the small claims court but the limit on such actions is £3,000, and her operation had cost her £3,500. Since then Mr Mohammed has been scouring magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *She*, *Q* and *Esquire* for offending adverts and complaining to the ASA. Sometimes he has had a favourable ruling — but then seen the same advert, or similar ones, printed again. His campaign has been backed by David Sharpe, president of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons. But Mr Mohammed wants a statutory body set up with powers to take legal action against clinics that break the rules. The Consumers Association has made a similar call and has criticised the ASA for ineffectiveness. Concern over the clinics' practices and the lack of regulation surfaced recently in the report of a government-appointed review group into silicone gel breast implants. The group was particularly concerned about the lack of accurate information in the adverts. It recommended that advertisers should give an address for balanced information.

But the ASA says it has heard nothing from the Department of Health, which accepted the ASA's recommendations. Last November, its Committee of Advertising Practice sent out a document, entitled *Help Note on Cosmetic Surgery*, to advertisers, agencies and media. It gave guidance on surgeons who could be described as qualified. Professor Sharpe says he knows of only one accredited surgeon in a private cosmetic clinic. The document also warned that the claim "leading clinic" should not be used unless the establishment is demonstrated to have superior attributes to all others. Ad-

vertisers with two suitably qualified surgeons in four should not claim "our qualified surgeons" and clinics should not link themselves with Harley Street unless they hold consultations or surgeries there. In a letter to the ASA in February, Prof Sharpe wrote: "Many of these organisations have been responsible for dis-

figurement and complications in patients obtained through misrepresentation of their accreditation." But he added that "it would not be seemly for our organisation to get into a squabble which attempts to disparage colleagues in these dubious cosmetic surgery practices". It would be against General Medical Council ethical guidelines, he said.

Having turned Thames into a public company in 1988, he went on to invest in the Astra satellite system and fought for the development of satellite television in the UK. At Thames's lowest point, when it lost its licence in the 1991 franchise rounds, he engineered the sell-out to Pearson Television, which still owns the production company. After a two-year spell at Pearson and other chairmanships within the industry Mr Dunn became executive director of News International Television in 1995, overseeing the satellite service he had battled to develop.

Former head of Thames TV Richard Dunn dies at 53

THE former chief executive of Thames Television, Richard Dunn, died suddenly at home yesterday, aged 53, writes *Janine Gibson*. Mr Dunn, who presided over the ITV company during its finest and worst hours, leaves a wife, Virginia, and three children. He began his career as a writer and film producer before joining Thames in 1978. He rose to chief executive in 1985, and as such his most controversial hour was defending the company's IRA documentary *Death on the Rock*, which enraged the Thatcher government.

Standards authority defied

TRANSFORM MEDICAL GROUP
Complaint: Objection to a brochure for cosmetic surgery that claimed "fully qualified surgeons". Complaintant argued the advertisers' surgeons were not accredited by the Royal College of Surgeons in plastic surgery and had not been NHS consultants. **Adjudication April 1997:** The advertisers said the brochure had been replaced. The ASA considered the claim "fully qualified" misleading because the surgeons had not met the GMC criteria for the specialist register. The ASA confirmed the amended version of the brochure was acceptable because it no longer made the claim on behalf of all the clinic's surgeons. **Result:** In January 1998, the clinic sent a letter to a prospective client in response to an inquiry. It read: "I have pleasure in enclosing our brochure, which will give you a brief outline of the procedures carried out by our fully qualified surgeons." (The ASA also regulates promotional claims made in letters).

NOBEL CLINIC
Complaint: Objection to an advert for a hair replacement clinic showing before and after pictures of a man's head. Complaintant challenged the claims "established for 10 years in England and Switzerland" and "all our clients with thinning, receding hair or even very extensive hair loss, experience natural permanent new hair growth within a few weeks". He also challenged the authenticity of the photographs. **Adjudication September 1996:** The advertisers maintained the claims were true and the photographs were genuine but provided no evidence. The ASA asked the advertisers to repeat the claims or use the photographs until they had shown they were acceptable. **Results:** Nothing happened. Further adverts appeared and the complainant repeated his complaint. **Further Adjudication May 1997:** The advertisers did not respond. The ASA was concerned that the advertisers failed to co-operate and were continuing to place an advertisement to place an advertisement to these ones. The ASA asked the Committee of Advertising Practice to instruct its media members to check with the Copy Advice team before accepting advertisements. **Results:** Advert showing same before and after pictures appeared in *Esquire* in July 1998 and similar claims in January to April editions of *Q* magazine.

Former head of Thames TV Richard Dunn dies at 53

THE former chief executive of Thames Television, Richard Dunn, died suddenly at home yesterday, aged 53, writes *Janine Gibson*. Mr Dunn, who presided over the ITV company during its finest and worst hours, leaves a wife, Virginia, and three children. He began his career as a writer and film producer before joining Thames in 1978. He rose to chief executive in 1985, and as such his most controversial hour was defending the company's IRA documentary *Death on the Rock*, which enraged the Thatcher government.

Dead girl
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The Guardian

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Dead girl 'had ecstasy at party'

Gerard Soeman

A TEENAGE girl who died yesterday is believed to have taken two ecstasy pills at a friend's weekend birthday party. Police said last night that four arrests had been made.

Julia Dawes, a fitness instructor aged 18 from Perth, was out with friends celebrating a 24th birthday at a club in Perth on Saturday night when reportedly she took the drug.

According to her friends, she had at first appeared fine and they all danced together for several hours. She still looked fine when she left the group at the end of the night.

However, she became ill shortly after returning to her home, and her parents later found her lying unconscious in her bedroom. She was taken to Perth royal infirmary and spent two days in what doctors described as a critical condition.



Julia Dawes, aged 18, died after birthday party

She never regained consciousness, and her life support machine was switched off yesterday.

Her parents, Alan and Jacqueline Dawes, had remained by her bedside and last night they were said to be too upset to talk of their daughter's death.

Perth and Kinross Health-care NHS Trust released a statement saying the death had left the parents and the girl's brother, Jonathan, "deeply grieved". It added that they paid tribute to the help given by hospital staff and the ambulance service.

"Mr Dawes would like to say that, from the bottom of their hearts, they have experienced a breadth and depth of human compassion from doctors, nurses and ambulance services, more than they could wish for, and an experience of loving care that will endure in their memories for ever," the statement said.

"Dayside police are investigating, and said four people had been arrested and charged in connection with the incident. A police spokesman said that a post mortem examination this afternoon would decide for certain if the dead girl had taken ecstasy.

Miss Dawes worked as a fitness instructor in a Perthshire health and fitness club owned by her parents. They last night appealed to be allowed to come to terms with their grief in private.

If the post mortem finds Miss Dawes died as a result of ecstasy, she would not be the youngest in Scotland to have died from the drug. Two years ago Andrew Woodcock, aged 15, from Lanarkshire, died after taking ecstasy pills.

Last year seven people in Scotland died as a result of taking ecstasy.

Mother 'sacked for declining job with travel'

Sarah Hall

AN executive who refused to travel all over Europe because of the effect it would have on her new baby was sacked for her decision, an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

Louise Neal, a 29-year-old headhunter with Tangent International, an recruitment agency for the computer industry, had responsibility for the agency's portfolio for IBM-NE, the Dutch arm of IBM. She was told on her first day back after maternity leave last December that her job had been given to her deputy and she must take up a new position as IBM European account manager.

She declined because she would be separated from her 10-week-old daughter, Lucy, for long periods. She is now claiming unfair dismissal and sexual discrimination after being presented with a *fait accompli* last December.

Yesterday Mrs Neal, aged 30, of Chelmsford, Essex, told a tribunal at Stratford, east London, that she felt humiliated at being offered the new job, which would offer less financial security, ensure no

further contact with customers and involve much more travelling.

In her previous role, which she had held for two years, she had made about 18 day trips a year to Holland, which was not disruptive. In the new position she would have had to travel to IBM sites in Brussels, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Paris and Stockholm, involving overnight stays, "which would have had an unfortunate impact on my relationship with my daughter", she told Chris Duggan, defending for Tangent.

Mrs Neal, who now works for a recruitment consultancy in Chelmsford, said she and her husband had believed "it was the right time to have a child" since her hours and income had seemed stable.

"I could organise a nanny to look after my child. If I took on the new business role, I would have to look for some other form of child care," she told the tribunal.

Her barrister, Robin Howard, told the tribunal that Tangent had given no indication that her job would change. She had been promised there would be no change except by arrangement. The hearing continues.



The Queen Mother with Princess Eugenie, eight, waves to the crowd at Clarence House yesterday



Prince William and Zara Phillips

Crowds help Queen Mother celebrate 98th birthday

Luise Harding

NATHANIEL Hess, aged two, was determined to give his biscuit to the nice old lady in yellow. As she made her way along the crowds in front of Clarence House, who had turned out to wish her a happy 98th birthday, Nathaniel seized his moment.

Stepping forward he presented the Queen Mother with his half-eaten digestive. She took it with a smile, pretended to munch it, and handed it back with the words: "You eat it."

It was left to Nathaniel's older brother William, eight, to explain the joke. "She was very nice to us," he said.

The Queen Mother celebrated in much the same way as last year. The sun shone, the crowds turned out in large numbers, and the entire Windsor family popped in for lunch.

"I last saw her in Scotland in 1989 when she launched a lifeboat. She was wearing a yellow sou'wester," said Australian tourist Heather Boatman, who had turned up to get a glimpse of her. "I think she appeals to the maternal instinct in everyone."

"She got us through the second world war and she is very good to the young royals," Joan Gay, from Bracknell, Berkshire, chimed in from behind a crash barrier.

The Queen Mother appeared outside her London home at 11.20am, wearing a canary yellow suit and hat. She spent 20 minutes chatting to well-wishers and staff who had been let inside a police barrier, occasionally leaning on her stick, before clambering into her candy-striped golf buggy.

The Queen Mum-mobile, bearing the discreet monogram EHR, then edged its way towards the Mall. Three balloons with the words Happy Birthday

bobbed playfully above its roof.

In an increasingly surreal pageant, a procession of liveried footmen carted away flowers and gifts from well-wishers. They included a bottle of Dubonnet, a giant teddy bear card, a nebuchadnezzar of champagne (the size of 20 ordinary bottles), and a box of After Eight mints.

Eventually her chauffeur executed a U-turn and Britain's best loved 98-year-old trundled back towards Clarence House and lunch.

Later princes William, 16, and Harry, 13, emerged into the sunshine to pose for pictures with her. William chatted with his 16-year-old cousin Zara Phillips, daughter of the Princess Royal. The Queen, Princess Margaret, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York and his daughters, and Prince Edward also turned out. Over at Hyde Park a 41-gun salute was fired, before the royals retired again. The Queen Mother is to travel to Balmoral today.

A car given to Diana, Princess of Wales, as an engagement present by the Prince of Wales is heading for an American museum because no one in Britain wanted to put it on public display, its owner, Keith Lawson, said yesterday.

The silver W-registered Ford Escort G15, with 80,000 miles on the clock, attracted offers only from private UK bidders who wanted to keep it to themselves, he said. Now a price had been agreed with the museum through a California Internet car dealership, although the sale was not yet completed. He said he did not know which museum it was and would not give the price.

Mr Lawson, an antique clock dealer, claims he rejected offers of up to £2 million to make sure the car would not be locked away. He paid £6,000 for it when Diana put it up for sale at Sotheby's in 1995.

Nurses' paperwork cuts time for patient care

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

STAFF nurses spend 15 per cent less time with patients than they did in the mid-1980s because of paperwork, researchers have found.

For ward sisters and charge nurses, the loss in time devoted to direct patient care has risen to more than 20 per cent, according to a study of 11 hospitals in three parts of the country.

The study was conducted among mental nurses, but the researchers — who have undertaken similar work in other areas of health care — say the same trend is evident across the board.

"When we started doing this work, it was not unusual to find nurses spending 70 per cent of their time on direct care," Keith Hurst, senior lecturer at the Leeds-based Nuffield Institute for Health said yesterday. "Now it's about 55-60 per cent."

"It would not be unkind to say that the amount of time nurses spend with their pa-

tients is dropping around about 1 per cent a year."

Nuffield researchers followed nurses going about their routines in acute psychiatric wards in hospitals in Yorkshire, inner London and the Northern health region. Each task was monitored and categorised.

Compared to the findings of an equivalent exercise in 1985, E-grade staff nurses spent 13 per cent less time with their patients but 17 per cent more time on "associated duties" — mainly office work. Staff on D grade spent 17 per cent less time with patients and 26 per cent more time on associated duties.

Supervisory staff on F and G grades spent more than 20 per cent less time with patients. Those on G spent as much as 39 per cent more time on associated duties.

The study also monitored the impact of these changes on patients, who were found to spend only 4 per cent of their time with ward staff and much of the rest of the day "doing nothing", watching television or chatting.

One patient said: "It can be

difficult at times to see the nurses. They're often in the office writing, or on the phone."

The researchers, who were funded by the Department of Health, are urging hospitals to recruit staff for paperwork, and free nurses for patient care.

Mr Hurst said: "It makes no kind of sense to be paying skilled nurses £25,000 a year to fill out forms. It's just not cost-effective."

A spokeswoman for the Royal College of Nursing said: "Nurses don't mind filling in forms if they can see the benefits, but administration and paperwork for all clinical nurses has increased and this does undoubtedly take them away from patient care."

Figures released yesterday show there were fewer than 48,000 student nurses in training in March, more than 8,000 below 1994. Numbers of training places were cut in the early 1990s, but are now being increased again.

Ministers have promised an additional 6,000 training places over the next three years.

Final warning for Radio 1 DJ who missed live show

Jamie Wilson

DJ Lisa T'Anson was given a final warning by Radio 1 bosses yesterday for failing to turn up for a live broadcast from Ibiza on Sunday after partying all night.

The incident happened during the weekend-long Ibiza 98. Ms T'Anson was reportedly seen at a nightclub at 8am on Sunday morning — only

hours before she was due to start her lunchtime show. DJ Emma B went in as a last-minute replacement. Ms T'Anson was located at the island's Manumission motel on Sunday evening.

Yesterday, the 23-year-old former MTV presenter was hauled before Radio 1 controller Andy Parfitt to explain.

In a statement, Radio 1 said Mr Parfitt "issued a severe reprimand to Lisa T'Anson for

being in breach of her contract, giving a first and final warning that if a repeat situation were to occur she would be summarily dismissed".

Mr Parfitt deducted her fee for both of her scheduled weekend programmes. He also demanded a full apology to Radio 1 colleagues and crew for the distress caused by her disappearance, missing the show and letting the whole Radio 1 team down."

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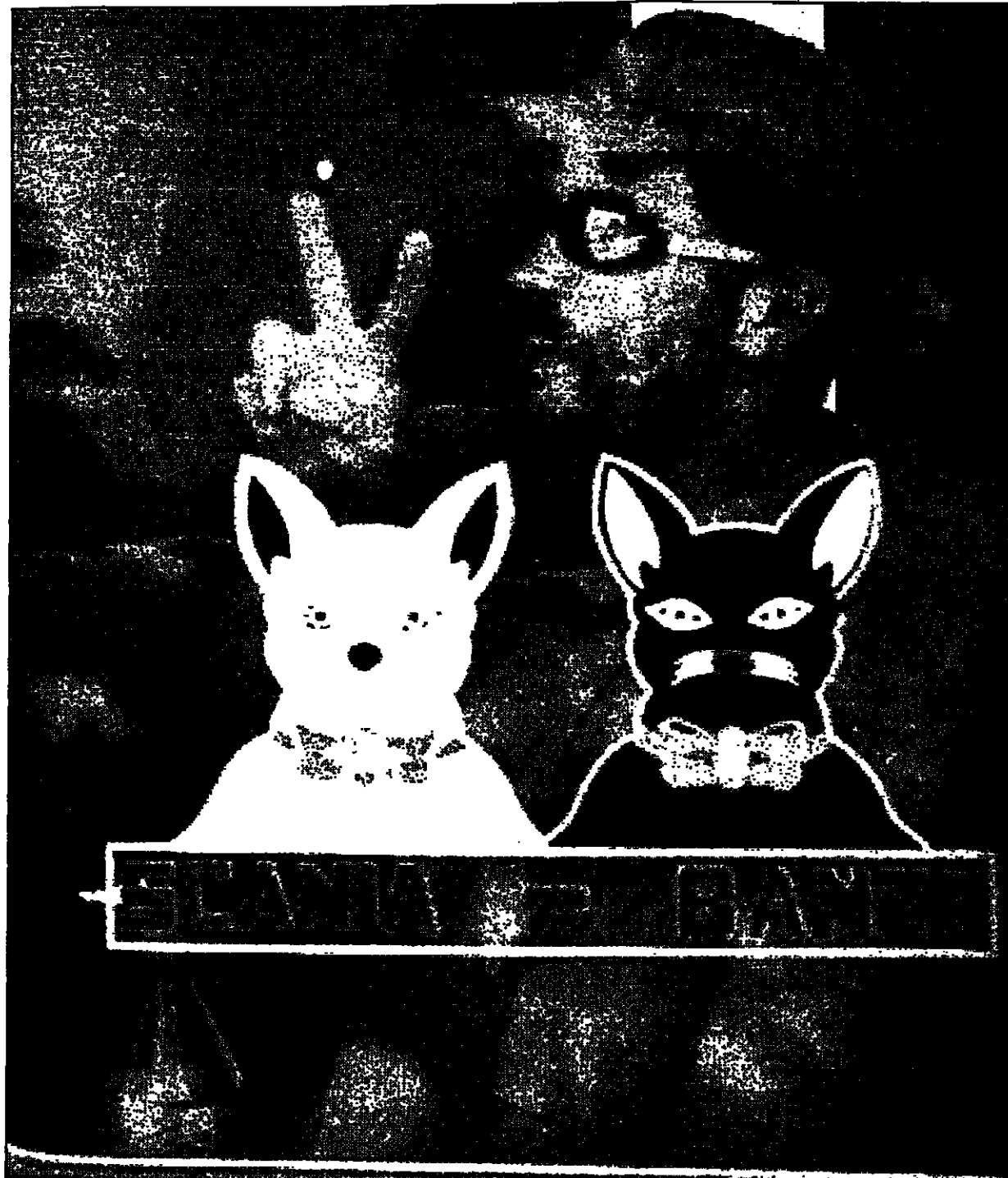
On Course 98

The Guardian The Observer

Saddam's strategy ends hope of compromise in the Gulf



After two dry runs, Iraq is on collision course with the West. **David Hirst** reports from Beirut on why the only unpredictable factor was the timing



A member of the UN weapons inspection team leaves Baghdad yesterday after talks with Iraq collapsed. After the previous two crises, Saddam Hussein (above left) is confident he can get the better of the US. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: KAFIM SAHIB

WHEN Richard Butler last visited Baghdad, in mid-June, the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoun, issued a warning. By October or November, he told the head of the UN's weapons inspections team, "one of two things could happen". The UN sanctions on Iraq could be lifted. But "if they are not, there will be a crisis. And it will be the final crisis".

The one sure thing about these periodic showdowns between Iraq and the UN Special Commission (Unscm) is that they will recur until that final crisis is upon us.

This is because President Saddam has a long-term strategy devised to end UN sanctions and, however ame-

nable to tactical retreat when necessary, he is following it unwaveringly.

It has produced two major crises. One was in October, when he expelled the UN inspectors; that was defused by Russian mediation. The other was early this year, when he refused to let the inspectors enter his presidential premises; that was defused when the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, negotiated a deal that averted United States military action.

There were hopes that both crises were coming, because Baghdad itself, with rhetoric and solemn warnings, made it obvious. The only uncertainty was the timing.

It has been similarly obvious for some time that a third crisis was in the making. The US administration has tended

to assume, like Mr Hamdoun, that it will come in October, when Mr Butler presents a key progress report to the Security Council.

Others have forecast that it will come sooner. And with yesterday's collapse of the Baghdad talks, it looks as though it has.

It may not be a "final crisis", but it should be graver than its predecessors, if only because the main actors, the US and Iraq, have exhausted all room for compromise.

There were hopes that it could be avoided. Rather surprisingly, Mr Butler himself generated them. On his last visit to Baghdad, the man Iraq calls a "mad dog" and "evil US puppet" said that he believed Iraq would co-operate on a "work programme" that will bring us very fast

and very far to the end of this process. It was hard to see what induced him to say it.

It was all the more remarkable because, only a few days before, he had delivered a report to the Security Council which laid bare the fundamental problem.

This is that Iraq has long insisted that it has disposed of all its weapons of mass destruction, while Unscm insists that it has not.

"It is important," Mr Butler said, "to note the order of magnitude of the weapons retained by Iraq: two-thirds of the operational missile force; more than half of the chemical weapons and half of the biological weapons."

The final option left to Mr Butler's latest visit, Iraq insisted, yet again, that all its weapons had been destroyed and that

Mr Butler knew it all too well.

Under the Annan deal, it said, Iraq had suffered the humiliation of opening up presidential palaces for inspection and nothing had been found. Yet, in spite of that, "our expectations that the weapons file would be closed by October ... vanished; all Iraq could look forward to was a 'continuation of the status quo; why should Iraq put up with all this — if the siege is to continue with no foreseeable end'?"

It would not put up with it much longer. For the past few months, it has been hammering that point almost daily. It was ready to wait, but not beyond the end of this, the eighth year of sanctions. If there was no progress, the Security Council was told in a letter on May 1, Iraq would

resort to "an alternative strategy". The strategy was a "private matter", but it would certainly reflect Iraq's "will power", and lead to "dire consequences".

Whatever the strategy is, it will reflect President Saddam's confidence that he will get the better of the US again.

He is surely persuaded that the deal the Russians brokered in November represented a clear US retreat. That at least was the overwhelming view of US commentators.

After the Annan deal, President Clinton said he would react forcefully to any further obstructions of the inspectors. But before long, the US press was reporting that, on the contrary, he was now less ready than ever to back the inspectors with force.

Odds are against beating tax man

Gary Young in Washington

TAX EVADERS and creative accountants who get caught may assume they are victims of God's law — one careless fib too many that was spotted by an eagle-eyed investigator.

But according to scientists in the United States they are far more likely to have fallen foul of Benford's law — a mathematical formula that shows when people are cooking the books.

Benford's law, which uses logarithms to establish a pattern of probability, is used by income tax agencies in US states including California, and has proved a useful device for exposing fraud, tax evasion, embezzlement and even computer bugs.

The theorem, named after Dr Frank Benford, a physicist at the General Electric Company, shows that truth is not only stranger than fiction, it is also less consistent. That makes it far easier for mathematicians to detect when someone is inventing a series of numbers.

One professor illustrates the use of the theorem by asking his students to either flip a coin 200 times and record the results or simply make them up.

When the students hand in the results he can tell who has invented them.

Research by Theodore Hill of the Georgia Institute of Technology showed that, at some point during the 200 tosses, heads or tails will probably come up six

times in a row. Those who make up their results are unlikely to factor this into their results.

"The truth is, most people don't know the real odds of such an exercise, so they can't fake data convincingly," he told the New York Times.

It is this fact that has alerted money-raising and legal authorities around the country to suspicious behaviour by those who try to crunch numbers to their advantage.

Benford proved his formula by using such varied numerical data as a day's stock market quotations, the populations of towns and electricity bills in the Solomon Islands.

A layman would guess that the chance of any of these strings of numbers starting with the digit 1 would be one in nine. Benford showed it was nearly one in three. The chance it would start with 2 was less than one in five. The possibility it would start with 9 was less than one in 20.

The law was applied to fraud cases in Brooklyn after the district attorney's chief financial investigator, Robert Burton, hired an accounting consultant, Mark Nigrini, who devised a computer programme based on the theorem.

"Our office had handled seven cases of admitted fraud and we used them as a test of Dr Nigrini's computer program," Mr Burton told the New York Times. "It correctly spotted all seven cases as involving probable fraud."

Court blow to Clinton

Gary Young in Washington

THE United States Supreme Court dealt a blow to White House efforts to protect the president's lawyers from having to testify in the Monica Lewinsky scandal yesterday when the chief justice ruled that Mr Clinton's closest aides must testify.

The White House lawyer, Lanny Breuer, appeared before the grand jury yesterday after the chief justice, William Rehnquist, refused to block testimony until the Supreme Court could consider a full appeal in the autumn.

The Clinton team had argued that the lawyers were protected by attorney-client

privilege while the president's detractors accused him of playing for time.

The decision, which will also force Bruce Lindsey, Mr Clinton's friend for more than 30 years, to appear before the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, deepens Mr Clinton's isolation at a time when he most needs candid advice.

The president can rely now on only his wife Hillary and the legal team of his personal lawyer, David Kendall. Last month Mr Rehnquist rejected a White House attempt to protect secret service officials from having to testify.

The final option left to White House lawyers is to seek help from any one of the eight other Supreme Court members, though it was not

clear if they planned to do so.

Mr Lindsey, who is recovering from back surgery, is closest to the president, but the cause of most immediate concern is Mr Breuer, who has helped the administration respond to various investigations in the past.

Mr Breuer is not thought to have much first hand information about Mr Clinton's relationship with Ms Lewinsky, but could provide crucial information about how the White House sought to contain the political damage at the beginning of the scandal. This could prove vital to Mr Starr's investigation of allegations that Mr Clinton attempted to obstruct justice by persuading Ms Lewinsky, and possibly

others, to lie under oath.

Arriving at the courthouse yesterday, Mr Breuer said he planned to go to the jury room. Mr Rehnquist's ruling leaves open the possibility that he could refuse to answer questions in the courtroom on the basis of client-confidentiality. Then Mr Starr would have to go to the US District judge and seek to force him to answer, which could prompt further rulings and appeals.

Both Mr Breuer and Mr Lindsey have provided limited testimony to the grand jury, but they claimed the attorney-client privilege against divulging confidential conversations with clients in refusing to testify about some matters involving Mr Clinton.

Families of switched girls reach deal

Mark Tran in New York

THE families of the two Virginia girls switched at birth three years ago have agreed to co-operate and do what is best for the children rather than start a custody battle.

Rebecca Chittum is being taken care of by her paternal grandparents, as her parents, Kevin Chittum and Whitney Rogers, were killed in a car crash on July 4.

Callie Marie Johnson will stay with Paula Johnson, who has looked after her since the babies were switched at the University of Virginia Medical Centre in June 1995.

"We anticipate a situation where the families, working

together, will be able to resolve the situation," said Michael Irvine, the lawyer for the Chittum relatives. "The families are saying they want what's best for these two children."

Kevin and Whitney, who were engaged, died without knowing that the child they had raised was not theirs. Rebecca was Ms Johnson's child, but Ms Johnson ended up with Kevin and Whitney's child in a legal and emotional tangle that began coming to light last week.

The story took a tragic twist with the news that Rebecca's parents are now dead. She is to be cared for by three sets of grandparents — her paternal grandparents, Larry and Rosa, her maternal

grandmother, Linda Rogers, and her maternal grandfather and his wife, Thomas and Brenda Rogers.

The promises of co-operation came as both families discovered each other's identity after Ms Johnson went public with the mix-up last week. DNA tests taken in a child support case showed that she had been sent home from hospital with the wrong baby.

The hospital tracked down Rebecca in the small mountain town of Buena Vista, 90 miles from Ms Johnson's home in Ruckersville.

Ms Johnson says she remembers Whitney Rogers from their brief time together in the maternity ward three years ago and looks forward to a private meeting with

Rebecca and her relatives. "My heart goes out to the families for their losses. Their pain is more than anyone should have to bear," she said.

The University of Virginia Medical centre, facing claims for financial compensation, is investigating the mix-up. Officials insist that it could not have happened accidentally, and Virginia state police have been called in to investigate.

But lawyers for the two families said their clients do not remember anything amiss with the bracelets that babies and mothers are supposed to be given shortly after birth. They said they had a videotape of the day Rebecca was born, showing her receiving a bracelet.

News in brief

Sri Lanka declares state of emergency

THE Sri Lankan president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, has imposed a state of emergency on the island in an attempt, she said, to maintain security and public order. The police and security forces can now be given wide-ranging powers of arrest and detention without trial.

Observers say the government is hoping to use the state of emergency to postpone the provincial elections, due at the end of the month, in which the president's ruling alliance is expected to do badly.

In an interview at the weekend, Ms Kumaratunga said that, although the government would do well in any elections, it was a risk to hold them when troops were involved in a major offensive against the Tamil Tigers. — *Suzi Price, Colombo.*

Taliban close in on stronghold

THE last foreign aid workers were evacuated from the northern Afghanistan city of Mazar-i-Sharif yesterday by the Red Cross, which fears a repeat of the street fighting and looting that erupted when the Taliban religious militia briefly held the city last year.

The Taliban advanced to 12 miles west of the city, one of the opposition's few remaining strongholds, reportedly prompting hundreds of residents to flee.

An opposition source in Mazar-i-Sharif said locals were revolting against General Rashid Dostan, one of the leaders in the anti-Taliban coalition, allowing the Taliban to advance. — *AP, Kabul.*

US Republicans break ranks

DEFYING their congressional leadership, Republicans have passed a far-reaching bill on campaign finance reform, one of the central promises of President Clinton's second term.

The bill, which bans unlimited, unregulated donations to political parties by businesses, trade unions and individuals, won with a big majority in the House of Representatives after more than 50 Republicans broke ranks.

It now goes to the Republican-dominated Senate, where it is expected to meet stiffer opposition.

Republicans also called on the attorney-general, Janet Reno, to appoint an independent counsel to investigate fundraising abuses in the 1996 presidential election. — *Gary Young, Washington.*

Turkish critics jailed

TURKEY'S professed commitment to improving human rights came under fresh scrutiny yesterday as a newspaper cartoonist and a playwright were each given jail sentences.

The cartoonist, Dogan Gunduz, is serving more than three years for insulting the Turkish republic in a cartoon strip he drew in two Kurdish newspapers which have now closed down.

The playwright, Mehmet Vahit Yazar, who was found guilty of provoking hatred in one of his plays, was sentenced to 24 years. Four actors who appeared in the play each received 16 years.

Prosecutors said the play encouraged social unrest by portraying the military as an obstacle to the campaign to set up an Islamic state. — *Chris Morris, Ankara.*

Iranian editor found guilty

THE power struggle between Iranian hardliners and moderates continued as the editor of the weekly newspaper Khaneh was found guilty of "insulting the Imam and Islamic sanctities" for publishing a letter from a woman who criticised the late Ayatollah Khomeini. Mohammad-Reza Zafari was freed on bail of \$4,000 pending sentencing.

Meanwhile the offices of the daily Jameh paper were evacuated after a bomb threat. No bomb was found. — *AP, Tehran.*

Time off urged for Thai troops

THAILAND'S army is encouraging its troops to take a month's unpaid leave because the country's economic crisis has left it short of money, the Bangkok Post reported yesterday.

There is only enough money in the budget to cover 11 months of soldiers' daily allowances through the year.

Training budgets have been cut by 80 per cent, and commanders have been ordered to suspend building and procurement projects to divert the money to training programmes.

The army has also launched schemes to encourage soldiers to grow their own food at their bases. — *AP, Bangkok.*

Scientists find new dove

NUMEROUS new species have been found by scientists on the tiny, little-known Caribbean island of Navassa, including the ground dove, thought to be extinct, and several undocumented plant species.

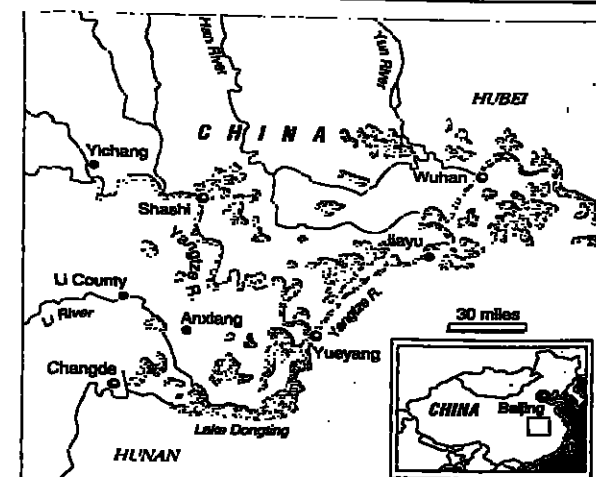
The island, a US territory 40 miles west of Haiti in the Greater Antilles, has an area of just two square miles and was last surveyed by scientists in the 1930s. — *Ruters, Washington.*

online

Every Thursday in the

The Guardian

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Floods bring death and destruction to Chinese villages

John Gittings

ENTIRE villages are being swept away by floods in China as the swollen Yangtze river reaches a critical stage, Beijing has revealed. Hundreds of thousands of peasants are huddling for safety on the top of crumbling river banks.

In one incident, a company of soldiers struggling to repair a waterlogged dike in central Hubei province was washed away when the wall collapsed and the river surged in.



Villagers in Yongxiu county take refuge on top of dikes to escape the flooding Yangtze river. Hundreds of thousands have been made homeless

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBYN BECK

Chinese officials now admit that hundreds are missing at Jiyi, upstream from the provincial capital of Wuhan, after a 200-yard stretch of the dam broke on Saturday.

A fleet of 38 boats rushed to the rescue with 1,000 soldiers to help, but because of the rushing waters they could not land," one eyewitness reported.

Up to 50,000 local peasants are taking refuge in makeshift tents along a 60-mile stretch of the earthen dike, although yesterday it was unclear how they were faring.

The disaster area is at a critical choke-point in the central Yangtze valley where the river makes a huge bend through low-lying country near the town of Yueyang to turn east towards Wuhan.

Details of a disaster not far away, in Li county, a week ago are only now coming to light. More than 30 people died, 60 were missing, 48,000 houses were destroyed and 80,000 people are living in shanties on the top of the dikes.

Flood relief in Li county appears to depend largely on local initiative. Civil servants are being urged to contribute two months' wages to buy food for the refugees, who are being issued with 1lb of rice daily, plus instant noodles and biscuits. Officials admit that the dike dwellers have "no way of going home".

Congo rebellion gathers strength

Alex Duval Smith
Africa Correspondent

RESIDENT Laurent Kabila's hold on power in central Africa's biggest country appeared to be crumbling last night as the army rebellion against him gathered momentum and fighting was reported in Kisangani, a key city in the interior of Congo.

Further evidence of the unravelling of the delicate military alliance which 15 months ago brought Mr Kabila to power in former Zaire came with reports that rebels who started the uprising in the east of the country on Sunday had flown to Kisangani, possibly to set up a western flank.

Nato stalls as refugee tide grows in Kosovo

Martin Walker in Brussels
and Peter Beaumont
near Lausa

NATO is "a long way from any military option", sources at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels said yesterday. Serbian forces continued to shell villages in central Kosovo, amid warnings of a humanitarian disaster involving 70,000 new refugees in the past week.

Warnings by the United States state department this week that intervention could come very quickly were played down by both Nato and British officials.

"Nato has a full range of contingency planning, but before they can be triggered, there has to be a political mandate," a Nato official explained. "We are still trying to resist. They want to clear the area of soldiers and civilians between the cities of Pristina, Pec and Metrovica. They cannot do that until they have killed every soldier in our army."

Not far from Lausa, in a shallow wooded valley near the village of Vrbovo, more than 1,000 refugees were camped out in insanitary conditions, with only a dirty stream as a water supply. Some had spent up to three weeks in the open. Yesterday, two carloads of aid arrived from the Red Cross — the first relief agency to reach them.

EU loses face for Cambodia poll verdict

Foreign election observers have sparked anger, writes Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Phnom Penh

WHITE faces are not the most popular in Cambodia these days. A week after elections monitored by 500 international — mainly European — observers, cracks in the facade of polite deference usually accorded foreigners are letting through a mixture of anger, puzzlement and disdain.

Preliminary results expected today will give the prime minister, Hun Sen, and his ruling Cambodian People's Party a clear victory in an election made possible largely by intense international pressure and finance. A widespread perception that he won by cheating, however, has tarnished the outcome of the poll and the ending of the stalemate by foreign governments to monitor it.

"Who are you and why are you lying to us," shouted one young Phnom Penh man, angrily waving a finger in the face of a Western analyst.

"We're angry," said a farmer hundreds of miles to the south. "People are very disappointed with the international community. They just can't believe it."

Early 24 hours after the polling booths closed in the July 26 election, and before the counting they were also sent to watch had ended, the chief spokesman of the European Union monitors endorsed the vote as broadly free and fair, in terms that look as flawed as the result.

In the end, efforts to intimidate sections of the Cambodian people appear not to have significantly influenced the conduct or the climate of the polling day itself," the spokesman declared.

A Cambodian election observer strongly disagreed. "I can't accept this statement," he said, describing extensive intimidation before and during the poll, and widespread fear of retribution after it among opposition supporters.

"The international community just didn't understand. They didn't get to the root of the problem, they only looked at the surface and they didn't see the reality."

Such criticism is less a comment on the skill of the observers than on the flaws in an operation hurriedly assembled to meet an election deadline that suited no one but Hun Sen.

The United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan issued the observers' mandate

PROFILE/Laurent Kabila

Beacon of hope, or just a new despot?

SOME things change — Zaire is now called Congo — but despots just change their spots, writes Alex Duval Smith. Laurent Kabila (right), briefly hailed as heading a new breed of African leaders, increasingly resembles the man he replaced, Mobutu Sese Seko, minus the leopard-skin hat.



On May 17 last year, thousands of people poured on to the streets of Kinshasa to welcome Mr Kabila's victorious rebel army. Now, to the 5 million residents of the Congolese capital, Mobutu's 32 years of corruption seem like 33.

Mr Kabila's erratic international policy-making and propensity for putting people from his Katanga (formerly Shaba) region in positions of power have left foreign diplomats suspicious.

Helena Smith

THE sun had disappeared. Fire racing through the forest had produced a pall of smoke big enough to block it out. Athens — the city the ancients called the "gem of the sea's rim" — lay shrouded.

Even 15 miles away in its ports, Piraeus, the wind-whipped inferno had reduced visibility to zero. The pungent whiff of burnt pine-wood hung in the ochre-pink air above the harbour.

"The problem is we can't see the blaze to put it out," said one of the firefighters, Apostolis Mandelios, as flames as high as tower blocks devoured the last of Athens's pine forest.

Flames had raced down the slopes of Mount Pendeli into the suburbs of Pallini and Varimbopi. As they approached, people took to their cars and fled. Many of their homes were gutted by the inferno. Some people jumped into garden swimming pools.

Smoke hides Greece's devastation

Helena Smith

Further down the road, great plumes of dark smoke billowed from the top floor of a garment factory. Hundreds looked on helplessly as firefighters tried to extinguish the inferno.

The fires are the latest of a record number of blazes to hit Greece this summer. So far more than 400,000 acres of some of southern Europe's finest fir forests and farmland has been destroyed.

With the Socialist government under intense criticism for its handling of the crisis, the prime minister, Costas Karamanlis, cut short his summer holiday last night to hold an urgent meeting in the capital.

"There's no doubt that lunar landscape, on a carpet of white cinders, stood the charred remains of tree trunks and farm buildings. From all around, between thick wisps of smoke, came the crackle of burning pine cones and the roar of the Chinook helicopters and firefighting planes in the sky above."

"We heard several explosions and the whole forest went up in flames," said Philippos Kalamaras, who had rushed to fight the blaze, fearing it would engulf his home in Varimbopi.

"There's so much dry wood around the fire went through it in a matter of minutes."



A firefighter tries to extinguish the flames engulfing a house on the outskirts of Athens

PHOTOGRAPH: YANNIS BEHRANIS

Most of these fires have been ignited deliberately," the public order minister, George Romalos, said yesterday after a guided tour of the devastated areas.

"They're breaking out on so many different fronts, all at the same time, and the very strong winds are making it very difficult to actually put them out."

He said it had been "a difficult day", but he expected an "even more difficult night ahead" for the firefighters, who have been joined by thousands of soldiers.

The defence minister, Akis Tsochadzopoulos, said the government would start standing aerial pictures to see where the fires had begun.

Last week a prosecutor ordered an investigation into the claims that arsonists in the pay of property developers were behind the fires.

Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

THE modernisation programme at Westminster proceeds in leaps and bounds. There has been excitement of late, for instance, over the post of vice-chamberlain to Her Majesty's Household, occupied by Labour party whip Graham Allen (once described by Alastair Campbell as one who "irritates his elders with constant calls for parliament to be made more hospitable"). One of the duties of this job is to provide a written report on the happenings of parliament to the Queen. More importantly, however, the job also involves walking up the debating chamber each morning, after prayers, carrying a wand of state, bowing respectfully every three steps in the direction of the Speaker's chair. Controversy struck recently when Allen decided to abandon the periodic bowing without informing the Speaker of his intent. A robust dressing-down from Betty Boothroyd was the inevitable outcome. Graham's truly modernising innovation, however, came in the privacy of the whips' room after morale reached an all-time low following the loss of the office television remote control. It seems the wand of state stretches just far enough to zap in comfort.

A GAIN the letters page of *Freemasonry* Today magazine draws the eye. An incensed Henry M Lynch-Skylion of Academic Lodge 1138 writes to editor Tobias Churton about the trivialising of the Craft. "In our attempt to mollify critics of the Order," he observes, "masons have increasingly been referring to the Craft as 'fun'. No self-respecting mason can say that he is going to the lodge 'to have fun' without running the risk of being misunderstood." It gets worse. "What is more worrying is that some brethren are allowing this sinister definition of the Craft to influence their attitude to the serious work involved." Whether or not this work involves being led blindfolded around a lodge by a noose, or reciting nonsense backwards while wearing an apron and one trouser leg rolled up to the knee, the thought that some brethren might choose to snigger at their predicament is a belief. There is something sinister about Brother Lynch-Skylion. We keep the watchful eye.

THE campaign to clear Daily Mail diarist Nigel Dempster's name after reports of a tussle with his deputy Adam Helliker gets off to a slow but promising start. We have spoken to Kate Sissons, a former colleague of Mr Dempster's, who, despite once taking the Master to court over a flying copy of Who's Who, has nothing but praise for her onetime boss. "I'm sorry I can't help you. Officially, Nigel and I got on fine," she says. "I had to sign a thing... a what-do-you-call-it? Anyway, sorry." And with that she is gone. But Kate, that's just the kind of support Mr Dempster needs. Thank you.

A S promised, today sees the first instalment of the People-Friendly Guide to New Labour Lexion. We start with a phrase often attributed to the Prime Minister which can in fact be traced back to John Prescott: "traditional values in a modern setting" — first used in answer to the question "are you a left-wing traditionalist?" in 1994. Prescott frequently returns to this clumsy but beguiling soundbite when in deep water. It can sometimes be accompanied by a wink or followed by a knowing grin, but always signals a change in subject. A call to Prescott's office fails to provide an exact definition, so we turn to Diary readers. Bottle of champagne to anyone who can define this phrase for us.

A PRESS release arrives from the Education Department to shatter rumours that the MP for Oxford East is less than interesting. "Operational Note," it reads, "Employment minister Andrew Smith launches the New Deal Big Blue Truck on August 5 in Grimsby. Time of arrival of Andrew Smith: 11.30. Crazy guy, crazy truck. PS The Big Blue Truck is actually pink."

THE SILLY SEASON HOTS UP:



We've got Blair and his chums, so we don't need elections any more

Jonathan Freedland



SO another British odyssey is complete. Gus Macdonald has made the journey from shipyard fitter on Red Clydeside to noble lord sinner on the red benches, from Trotskyist militant to Tonyist minister. He's no doubt an able man, well-suited to sitting at the right hand of Donald Dewar, beckoning US and Japanese conglomerates to invest in Scotland. But he shouldn't have got the job. The fact that he did sheds light on a defect that extends far beyond him and his new posting: for it exposes Labour's blind spot on democracy.

It's a surprising weakness in a Government which has done much to stretch popular rule to the parts previous administrations haven't reached. The parliament in Scotland, the assembly in Wales, the mayor in London — they're all about extending democracy. Yet when it comes to the conduct of its own affairs, especially the allocation of key jobs, Labour shows a near-contempt for an ideal all progressives should cherish: the right to elect those with authority over us.

It's almost absurd that such a principle means restating, but the elevation of Macdonald shows it clearly does. Here is a Prime Minister, who just last week hailed his administration as a "radical, reforming government", granting executive power to a man who has never faced the electorate. "But he's so talented and qualified," says the Government. Never mind, I say, for that's the standard, we might as well dispense with elections altogether and ask a recruitment agency to hire the most talented executives in the land. Every five years we could ask them to do it again. Except this is not business, it's politics — and politics, in a democracy, means voting. It's worth kicking up a fuss because Gus Macdonald is no one-off. New Labour is making a habit of plucking the best and brightest from unelected business. David Sainsbury and David Simon are both now ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry, their hands unshackled by the grubby roll of winning votes. A key player in Government is one Charles Falconer, a lawyer chum of Tony Blair's who was rapidly ennobled last year and promoted in last week's reshuffle. As deputy "enforcer" to Jack Cunningham, Falconer — a democratic virgin — will kick the butts of Cabinet ministers who, unlike him, have won a mandate from the people.

And it is the people who are slighted by these appointments. Scottish MPs have had their egos bruised by Macdonald's selection ahead of them: Donald Dewar explicitly stated that not one of them could hold a candle to the new boy. But the real snub is to those MPs' voters. By looking outside parliament for ministers, Labour is telling the nation that the body to whom they send their representatives no longer matters. We already know that the real debates happen elsewhere, inside the closed corridors of Whitehall and the private rooms of the Brownies and Blairites, but now we know that even the personnel of the Government can be drawn from elsewhere. The embodiment of our democracy is nothing more than an inconvenience, to be bypassed.

Labour's tin ear toward democracy is exposed just as clearly in its plans for the House of Lords. It wants to reform the upper house. Good. It realises that the hereditary principle is illegitimate. Good.

But its proposed, if interim, alternative is a House of Peers, made up of Sainsburys, Simons and Macdonalds — all handpicked by the PM himself. As a matter of *fact*, a progressive government should be advocating a democratic chamber — one whose members are picked by the people, not politicians, through the time-honoured method of voting. Yet, incredibly, this remains a fringe idea, one the Government says can only be considered after more review and study. Labour's initial impulse is not for election, but selection.

The same instincts are at work in the lead-up to the stampede of polling that will hit Britain next year. In 1999 there will be elections in Scotland, Wales and Europe — all using a form of proportional representation, where voters are asked to approve a list of candidates. Under those rules, the crucial battles are for a place on the party list.

LABOUR could have run US-style primary contests, where voters choose candidates directly, or could have had a free ballot among party members. Instead it set up selection panels, made up of inquisitors of the central party, tasked with screening out those deemed unfit to be Labour candidates. Instead of local people being able to choose their own representative, members will have to pick one of the pre-approved, handpicked few. In the language of old-fashioned politics, it's a purge.

The blood in Scotland has been famously red, with left-wingers like Dennis Canavan MP barred from standing. The Welsh weed-out has gathered less publicity, but longtime activists are furious that local heroes like Tyrone O'Sullivan,

the miners' leader who led the successful fight to save Tower Colliery, have been branded rejects. This week the centralisers are at it once more. Ballot forms are being mailed to Labour party members, asking them to select their candidates for the National Executive Committee. This year's NEC elections have already revealed the Government's shaky understanding of democracy: MPs received ballot forms with three "choices" handily pre-printed in place, just in case the heper-wes-ers were unsure how to vote.

Now it is the activists' turn. They used to be able to choose MPs, a right they routinely exploited to pick trouble-makers like Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner and, last year, Ron Livingstone. Now that or-der has gone. And, just to make sure, Miliband has its own slate of preferred candidates, including favoured council leaders, trade unionists and celebrities. In rebellion, a coalition of Hattersleyites moderates and left-wingers have formed a slate of their own, the Centre-Left Grassroots Alliance — led by the likes of Tribune editor Mark Seddon. Their appeal is not so much ideological as democratic: in that one corner where regular members can be heard, they want dissenting voices.

Seddon recalls taking part in a radio debate, shortly after the death of John Smith. He was up against a Labour-friendly journalist who suggested that, since it was obvious Tony Blair was going to win the leadership, there was no point in Labour having an election at all. "But this isn't Albania!" protested Seddon. That journalist was Alastair Campbell — and Campbell's law seems to be spreading.

contrast to the tone of the previous government on immigration. It says: "The contributions made by those who immigrated to Britain and their descendants are incredibly diverse. This year sees the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the SS Windrush at Tilbury Docks on 22 June 22, 1948. The 432 passengers and all those who followed them have made an enormous contribution to today's Britain. Every area of British life has been enriched by their presence. There follow chapters not only on immigration private but also on "identifying those in need of protection" and "encouraging citizenship". Yes, it is a tough document. It seems to stop illegal immigrants, tackle the gangs who bring them in, sort out the shambles of the asylum support system, discourage economic migrants and regulate unscrupulous advisers. But it is also balanced, introducing judicial oversight of the detention process, enabling settlement by genuine refugees and abolishing the so-called white list.

For the sake of refugees, let's engage in a realistic debate about asylum. We need a balance between a strong human rights policy and tackling abuse. We must restore respect for the integrity of the asylum system and public support for refugees.

Unholy and unreal

Madeleine Bunting



TODAY is the grand finale of Lambeth XIII as the 735 bishops of the Anglican Communion debate homosexuality in public for the first time. Expect a parade of homophobic opinions, the like of which has not been seen in this country for many decades.

For the Church of England, the embarrassment is acute. It has been struggling to contain the differences over homosexuality in this country largely by doing everything it can to bury them. Along come several hundred bishops with the words of "Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war" ringing in their ears, whose express purpose from the moment they stepped off the plane was to ensure that the line was held against the corrupting contamination of liberalism.

After \$2.2 million worth of intensive discussions and Bible study, what has Lambeth XIII produced? Dozens of headlines about homosexuality; 108 resolutions and a pile of reports. Bishops who arrived looking chipper two and half weeks ago, are now looking exhausted — particularly the 60-odd bishops who have been in the private subsection debating homosexuality which has required all the considerable diplomatic skills of the Bishop of Johannesburg to prevent a spectacular bust-up.

THE 108 resolutions are entirely an unobjectionable wish-list of love and peace for everyone in the world. They cover every conceivable ill from nuclear weapons to environmental degradation to violence against women and abuse of human rights. Even subjects which touch deeply on the personal experience of participants such as Muslim-Christian relations, the anodyne pieties are striking; take for example, the call for "prayerful and urgent action with all involved in tension and conflict, to understand their situation, so that everything possible may be done to tackle the causes of conflict". What on earth does that mean to a Sudanese bishop whose people are being bombed and starved by a Muslim government? Equally pious was the long exposition of the evils of economic inequality in the world and the burden of unpayable debt on developing countries couched in stirring rhetoric which con-

cluded with a paragraph calling for dioceses to donate a meagre 0.7 per cent of their annual income.

With great self-importance, they declare to the world that these evils must not be tolerated. But who is listening? As the bishops' report on the environment admits, Lambeth conferences since 1968 have been making increasingly hysterical statements about the urgent need for Christians to take action, with little effect. All that the world will get to hear of Lambeth XIII is the squabble over homosexuality. It must be an intoxicating experience to re-order the world from the University of Kent campus, but the bishops seem to be experiencing a serious dislocation from reality — ironic given how much time they have spent talking about that very subject. That was most starkly revealed last Friday. The bishops gathered for an aching earnest session on how the church must attract young people. A troupe of enchanting little girls danced for them and a video link broadcast an episcopal chat show — bishop, Christian youth workers and pastoral sofas. Meanwhile outside, the only "youth" anywhere near them, a delegation of University of Kent students, was asking with admirable dignity for a group of clerical anti-homosexual demonstrators to move on. The largely American clerics got aggressive; the baffled students, repulsed by their lack of tolerance, gave up and went to play rounders. Two moral systems clashed and "youth" walked away; the bishops couldn't have had a more telling verdict on

Expect a parade of homophobic opinions from the bishops today

their worthy deliberations. It's the fate of all such worthy international gatherings. The pronouncements are reduced to a lowest common denominator to win unanimity; their true purpose is entirely private in the relationships between individuals. At this Lambeth Conference, the church has implemented what it understands of press relations; a tightly controlled media operation has reduced all stories to banalities, leaving a vacuum happily filled by the opponents and advocates of gay rights — with absurd results which will culminate today in an unholy row. Surely the Lambeth Conference should abandon its pontification to the world and accept what it is — a theology seminar with a lot of praying, of little interest to anyone except its participants and a few devotees back home.

Polly Toynbee is away

Under the Conservatives, 6 per cent of asylum applicants were granted refugee status. Today it is 16 per cent

It's better now

Mike O'Brien

ONE of the problems of dealing with an issue like asylum early in the life of a Labour Government is that some critics of the previous government's policies are caught in a pre-election mindset. In her article "Asylum lunacy" last Wednesday, Isabel Hilton charged that: "The Home Office is a secretive... and apologetically managed bunker" with a "culture of disbelief" where "the genuine asylum seeker is the loser". Yesterday's Guardian letters column said similar things. It may have been true once. It isn't now.

Labour is delivering what it promised. It is not all in place yet, but the white paper Fairer, Faster And Firmer: A Modern Approach To Immigration And Asylum is a sound start.

Office "secrecy" is far from the truth. Since last year, Jack Straw has announced a series of measures of openness. Instructions to asylum caseworkers, previously secret, are now public. So are all decisions on citizenship. There is wider consultation with refugee groups, including IND (Immigration and Nationality Directorate) user panels. There will be greater disclosure of detention centre contracts. We have established a consultative group on country information and an on-going programme of publishing country assessments.

We have encouraged reputable refugee organisations to visit facilities run by IND and talk to staff at Dover, Heathrow and elsewhere.

The allegation that there is a "culture of disbelief" at the Home office is offensive to civil servants. I meet daily with officials who are dedicated to making fair and decent decisions on difficult

asylum cases. Critics ignore the fact that when the present Government took office 6 per cent of asylum applicants were granted refugee status. Today it is 16 per cent.

Officials constantly put to me recommendations for compassion

ine, orchestrated by unscrupulous immigration advisers who put plausible stories into the mouths of economic migrants.

A lot of work has gone into creating a positive decision-making culture at IND. Civil servants deserve credit for

their hard work. Their fairness is demonstrated by the fact that only 6 per cent of appeals against their decisions are successful. In her articles, Isabel Hilton distinguishes the record of the Refugee Legal Centre to cast aspersions on the quality of civil servants. RLC carefully select the appeals they promote and have a good record of 20 per cent. The truth is that, overall, 94 per cent of asylum decisions taken by civil servants are upheld by independent adjudicators or the appeals are withdrawn.

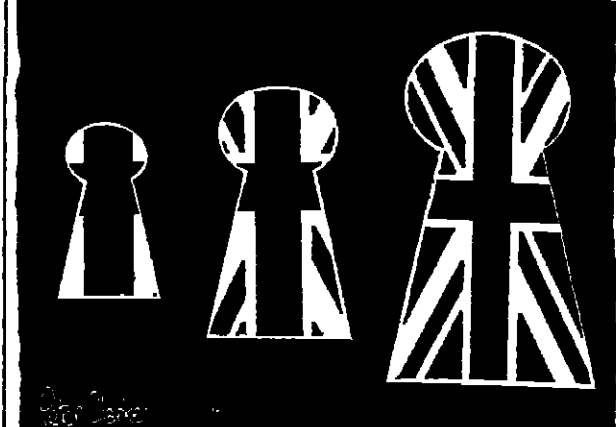
Of course there is always room for better training and better working methods, and we are working hard to address that. For example, IND this month begins to pilot new working methods which will allow each caseworker to deal with a wider range of people.

The opening paragraph of the white paper is a marked

contrast to the tone of the previous government on immigration. It says: "The contributions made by those who immigrated to Britain and their descendants are incredibly diverse. This year sees the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the SS Windrush at

Tilbury Docks on 22 June 22, 1948. The 432 passengers and all those who followed them have made an enormous contribution to today's Britain. Every area of British life has been enriched by their presence. There follow chapters not only on immigration private but also on "identifying those in need of protection" and "encouraging citizenship". Yes, it is a tough document. It seems to stop illegal immigrants, tackle the gangs who bring them in, sort out the shambles of the asylum support system, discourage economic migrants and regulate unscrupulous advisers. But it is also balanced, introducing judicial oversight of the detention process, enabling settlement by genuine refugees and abolishing the so-called white list.

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A devious destroyer

The West must say no

HOLIDAY-MAKERS cram the beaches of the Adriatic and Mediterranean enjoying the sun, and once again — barely 200 miles away in the interior of the continent — tens of thousands of frightened refugees are on the move. They flee artillery shells. They scramble for their tractors. They huddle in heat-soaked ravines without water or food. This is Europe in August, another battle in Slobodan Milosevic's brutal war against the 90 per cent of the population of Kosovo who happen to be Albanian. Using the advantage of the summer break, of media fatigue, and President Clinton's notorious distractions the Yugoslav leader is taking another calculated risk.

Saddam Hussein behaves much the same way with the UN weapons inspectors. A phase of reasonableness is followed by a deliberate ratcheting up of tension. The difference is that while the UN brings its biggest guns — diplomatic with a touch of military menace — to bear on Saddam, Mr Milosevic is under far less pressure. Although the humanitarian disaster he has caused in central Kosovo in the last three weeks is as massive as his attacks on western Kosovo in May, this time the outcry from the outside world is muted. Where is the tough talk of air-strikes which we heard last spring from Western leaders when the offensive around Decani was underway? Where are the crisis meetings of ministers? Where is the UN Security Council?

Mr Milosevic promised everyone he has

met over the last two months, including President Yeltsin in Moscow, that he would withdraw his police forces to barracks. He asserted that the Yugoslav army was only there to protect Kosovo's borders. Yet there has been no withdrawal and the Yugoslav army is fully engaged. If it were merely one more case, in a ten-year catalogue of broken promises, of the Yugoslav leader being duplicitous, it would be bad enough. But there is a sneaking sense that the West's ill-considered policies have encouraged him. Anonymous Western officials whisper that they are "privately" pleased that the Kosovo Liberation Army (the military wing of the pro-independence movement) has suffered a defeat. Their views stem from a dangerous recent drift in Western policy which tends to equate the Serb forces with the KLA.

Both sides, it is argued, have to be brought to the negotiating table. Both have to stop their military action. Obviously a ceasefire is required as soon as possible, but to put the issue in parallel terms is to forget the underlying truth that the KLA represents a majority community and that its tactics are primarily defensive while the Serbs are trying to enforce an undemocratic minority regime by military means. There is no equivalence.

On the political front, the West has also been giving encouragement to Mr Milosevic by its constant insistence that there can be no independence for Kosovo. The Contact Group of five Western governments and Russia has been drafting, under British leadership, a range of possible autonomy options for the Serb-run province. Who would run the police? What sort of electoral system might there be? How can minority rights be guaranteed? All fine and good — except that it rules out the one thing, independence, which Mr Milosevic's brutal war has made the vast majority of Albani-

ans desire. They want out from under the Serb guns, not just now but for ever.

Unless the West changes the political thrust of its strategy and makes clear that it will no longer prejudice the future status of Kosovo, it will only produce what the cunning and deeply-experienced Yugoslav leader is working towards. He wants us first to condone, and then with luck support his position. In this sun- and death-kissed August it is time to say no.

Leave rates alone

The Bank may hasten recession

THERE IS no case for yet another increase in interest rates. If anything the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (which meets today and tomorrow) should be thinking when the next reduction should be. Since the committee met last month there has been fresh evidence of an economic slowdown amid worries that the fall-out from Asia will be greater than expected. In addition two highly relevant pieces of academic research have been published. Professor Robin Marris has shown that all of the recent increase in average earnings — to 5.4 per cent in April — has been due to (temporarily) higher bonuses. Strip them out, he says, and earnings inflation has been static at 4.5 per cent since 1995. This would be a worry if productivity were as low as the official figures suggest. But the London Business School argues that the trend of manufacturing productivity has been hugely underestimated.

Put these two conclusions together and you find the unremarkable fact that earnings are rising by no more than you would expect during a cyclical upswing. Increases in earnings are a problem if they feed

through to prices. Yet the rise in the Government's measure of retail prices was only 2.8 per cent in the year to June. This is not far off the target of 2.5 per cent. Much of the increase in this index was caused not by wages but by Budget tax increases. Strip these out and the annual increase was only 2.0 per cent. Since we still haven't felt the effect of most of the six previous interest increases since Labour came to power (which take up to two years to influence the economy) it would seem foolhardy to raise rates yet again. The problem with incomes is not at the lower end. It is with the fat cats at the top who have set an appalling example by awarding themselves increases of 18 per cent last year.

It would be unfair to criticise the Bank for all these increases in interest rates. If the Chancellor had used fiscal policy to constrain consumer spending the Bank wouldn't have been forced to raise interest rates instead and be blamed for the devastating effect it has had on the manufacturing sector. Nevertheless, the Bank could and should have raised interest rates earlier and more sharply. The problem now is to stop a cyclical slowdown becoming a full-blown recession. The Bank should be less concerned about runaway inflation than with the real prospect of deflation. Another rise in interest rates would bring the disaster scenario that much nearer.

MacCrony

But Gus is quite a catch

IT'S ironic that, after ousting Frank Field for lacking the political arts, Tony Blair should appoint a political virgin to a sensitive spot in Scotland. But Gus Macdonald is hardly an ingénu. You might even say his

seamless passage from left-wing firebrand to corporate Blairite peer, missing such inconvenient stages as public contrition for his previous anti-capitalist form or membership of the Labour Party, exhibits impressive political skill. That and the richness of his Govan background — a lad o'pairts he surely is — ought to make him a useful point man for beleaguered Donald Dewar. Labour might take heart from the fact Mr Macdonald continues to see Labour as a vehicle of upwards ascent.

But this appointment is subject to all sorts of misgivings. The crony charge is unfair if, as Mr Macdonald affirms, he hasn't seen the Prime Minister for a year nor has ever been admitted to the spartan interior of Mr Dewar's Glasgow flat. What it does show, again, is how much the Blair government is in love with prerogative power. It is not especially enamoured of the House of Commons, either. Ignoring the ranks of Scottish backbenchers may be justified on meritocratic grounds but doesn't such a demonstration of their lack of talent explain Labour's problems north of the border?

There is something in trying to deepen the pool of ministerial experience. From the wartime appointment of Lord Beaverbrook to the peacetime misbegotten bag from Frank Cousins to Lord (David) Young outsiders often failed to convince either as ministers or parliamentary performers. On Lords Simon and Sainsbury the jury is still out. Yet transfusion of experience from one "silo" to another in our society must be good in principle. Mr Macdonald will import knowledge of shipyards and boardrooms. He's a catch, but how much more impressive would he be as minister and Scottish political operator if he had had to stand for elective office on the hustings before cameras and mikes and so pay his democratic dues.

Letters to the Editor

Islington man says gissa job

THE Prime Minister really is telling his Scottish backbenchers (Cronyism row erupts, August 4) that not one of them is fit for office? I'm sure this will go down a treat with the people of Scotland when it comes to voting for the Scottish parliament.

Andrew Belsey, Cardiff.

IN the mid-eighties, Gus Macdonald used to drink in my local Islington pub, the Huntington Arms, only a few hundred yards away from Tony Blair's old house. I still drink there and am neither an MP nor a member of the Labour Party. Can I have a government job please?

Anthony Gunnersen, London.

SO farewell then, Nicolas Walter, rational or otherwise (Letters, August 3). How soon will he be joined by your other victim of *concocted scribbles*, Keith Flett?

Peter Stockill, Middlesbrough.

AS one who also attended the SWP Easter rallies at the Derbyshire Miners Holiday Camp at Skegness, I do feel that Ian Birchall (Letters, August 4) was missing something of the experience if he failed to indulge in drunkenness and sex. One reason was to underline that socialists could enjoy themselves too. And we did, despite the dreadful food and the weather.

Keith Flett, London.

Please include a full postal address and a daytime telephone number. We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

My brother was betrayed

WOULD like to express my anger, sadness and frustration at the treatment that my brother, David Shayler, has received at the hands of both the British and French governments. The conditions he is currently enduring are inhumane in a country such as France where the European Convention on Human Rights has been signed.

David has spent the last 72 hours in La Santé prison without access to a lawyer or to his family and friends. He has been imprisoned for criticising inefficiency within MI6, he has not yet been charged with any crime.

As the Guardian stated, (Leader, August 4), David is being condemned for a crime that was opposed by our Prime Minister and Home Secretary in 1988 when the Official Secrets Act received royal assent. Quite simply, my brother is being made an example of. After all, we have been informed that his revelations are unreliable and that he was a "junior" within the walls of Millbank. Why then have they come down on him with the force that one would

expect for an IRA terrorist or a suspected murderer? Before Saturday evening I found it difficult to empathise with supporters of certain causes, such as the Hillsborough Disaster families. I would now like to extend my sympathies to such parties. Like my brother he believed that this Government would lead a sympathetic ear to the wrongs that were committed under the Tories. How wrong we have all been.

Jeremy Shayler, London.

PROPOSALS to "storm the hated MI6" Staff-style may be a little premature given that the level of security surrounding MI6's 500,000 personal files is not as watertight as it is, and your correspondents, might believe (Letters, August 1).

S M Newbury questions the "import-export business" in the vetting of military personnel. A quick check of the Data Protection Register for entries relating to the Ministry of Defence reveals that entry number G0326168 covers a computer database handling the MoD's security vetting of

service personnel, MoD and other Whitehall staff.

It specifies "political activities" in the lengthy list of categories of data held. So for a modest search fee of £10, S M Newbury should find that the Data Protection Act of 1984 will reveal all.

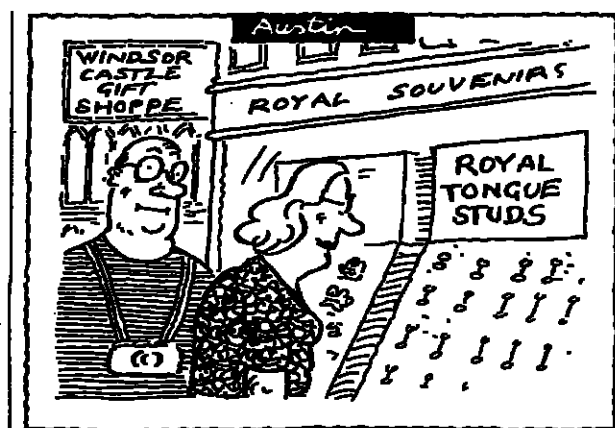
But more significant is that many MI6 and MI5 files are already in the public domain, as other policing agencies in this country do not share the security and intelligence agencies' obsession for blanket secrecy. Data Protection Register entry number E0376126 relates to a major Metropolitan Police intelligence database. The entry shows that the security services routinely pass data to the Met, which then holds it on a computer registered under the Data Protection Act. Therefore all such data passed to the police by MI6, MI5 or GCHQ is available for scrutiny by the "data subjects".

The same applies to a database operated by Customs and Excise (E0306102). David Northmore, London.

result of elections judged to be "generally free and fair" by the UN in 1992 and returned to power. Some 300,000 people died before the Lusaka Protocol halted the fighting. With UN again on the march, seizing over 80 towns and villages in the last month, Britain and other Security Council members must now act to stop a return to this slaughter.

Peter Brayshaw, Mozambique Angola.

When I met Ronson to discuss appearing in his film about opera critics, it was precisely because I suspected he planned to portray us along the lines of "a crowd of the craven and corrupt" that I declined to be interviewed. His theory that opera



When Spam was glam

YOUR Hall of Infamy No 5 (August 1) was a lively read but less than fair to its subject — Spam. Whatever the taste and texture of today's made-in-Denmark under-licence Spam, the WWII product was never a wobbly mass of pink pig. Hormel's pork-and-ham delight was as manna to the wartime housewife. "God bless America!" my mother used to say as she opened a tin. Spam (from spiced ham) has honoured our table as often as it could be obtained. While it was never rationed, Spam was scarce and required "points".

Ironically, while my mother searched for the stuff, my

father had in his care several emergency food stores. Here it was listed as Supply Pressed American Meat (also Spam). So straight was my dad that when the stores were handed over to the military in 1944 not an ounce of Spam was missing. Our family often sighed at the opportunity lost.

Jim Branton, Edinburgh.

PLEASE don't knock Spam. It is delicious sliced, grilled each side and served with new potatoes and runner beans. It tastes completely different from its original cold state.

M E Veale, Bath.

Critic's critique

JOHN Ronson's report on the TV series, *Critical Condition*, (Letters, August 1) is syntactic. When I met Ronson to discuss appearing in his film about opera critics, it was precisely because I suspected he planned to portray us along the lines of "a crowd of the craven and corrupt" that I declined to be interviewed. His theory that opera

reviewing in newspapers is on the way out is manifestly bogus. I told him that the real story was the disappearing classical concert notice, but that didn't suit his script. I smelt a rat when Ronson's associates proposed filming me in unlikely situations: a free lunch on the Orient Express and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Barbados Opera Festival, neither of which I would dream of covering.

Hugh Canning, Music critic, Sunday Times.

How the Truth Commission has helped to heal us

AS A South African trade unionist, I have experienced the Truth and Reconciliation Commission quite differently from your Leader writer (August 3). I am relieved to know at last what happened to my friend and fellow activist Stanza Bopape who was said by police to have escaped from custody in June 1989. Hearings revealed that he had a heart attack as a result of electric shock torture, and that his body was thrown by police into a crocodile-infested river. Knowing too that the security forces were responsible for the May 1987 bombing of the headquarters of the trade union movement, Cosatu, where I worked vindicates the argument at the time that such attacks were state-sponsored terrorism, and not the actions of rogue elements. The knowledge now that you have trained by the South African Defence Force to act as hit squads against trade unionists and political activists in Natal at a time when the

world press described the carnage as "black-on-black violence" helps remind people like myself that we were not mad or paranoid in arguing the existence of a state-trained third force. Your suggestion that the attorney general of one region of the country could have uncovered the same degree of truth without any offers of amnesty is not plausible.

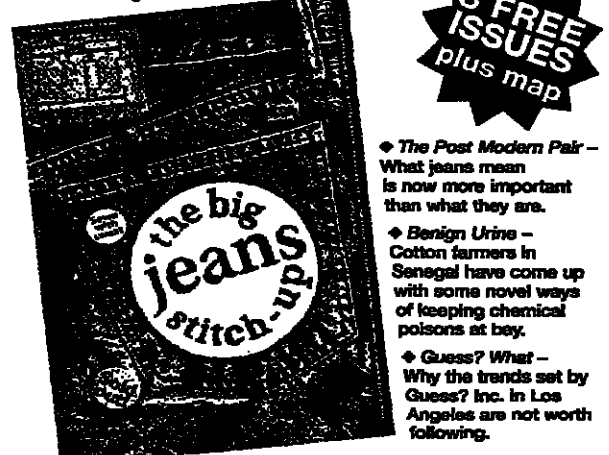
The real process of reconciliation lies with the TRC's compensation and victim support activities and ultimately with the capacity of the government to implement the TRC's final recommendations, not with a superficial opinion poll. The TRC clearly has not been flawless and may not be an appropriate model for Northern Ireland. But to call it "Archbishop Tutu's adventures in pursuit of the truth" is insulting to all of us who are trying to make a difference in the new South Africa.

Jane Barrett, London.

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Straw man

Mark Steel



POOR Jack Straw. There are few things more disconcerting than crazy people agreeing with you. As a columnist, the worst sort of letter to receive is one that starts to agree with you. As a columnist, the worst sort of letter to receive is one that starts to agree with you. As a columnist, the worst sort of letter to receive is one that starts to agree with you.

Guardian which ended: "Jack Straw is right. Bogus asylum-seekers should be removed... the others should be dispersed to outlying parts of the UK where they'll be better placed to learn English."

What a marvellous twist. Demanding that foreigners are kicked out of your areas isn't racist. It's just helping them develop a full range of regional accents. In fact, it's no wonder the Home Office are so sceptical of their claims when the refugees have learned their English in London. All their claims read: "This geyser right, walloped these electrodes on me plates o' meat e' did. Straight up."

Another potential fan is the Richmond Times, which told its readers recently: "Fordes of refugee children from war-torn countries are depending on Richmond, leaving the council to pick up the bill." As if families being fired at in Rwanda are thinking: "Well, this is good for the kids, 'cos as long as they survive they can have a lovely picnic by the river in Richmond."

For several months, most articles about refugees have included mention of one attack by an asylum-seeker on a local resident. Although they don't insist that every item concerning England has to mention the Great Train Robbery. And why does one crime by one asylum-seeker mean there should be restrictions on the rest? I don't suppose that when Derek Bentley and Christopher Craig were caught on that roof in Croydon, the Advertiser said: "And once again the culprits were English. So isn't it time for the Home Secretary to make all the English go and live in Nigeria?" But this week they do applaud Straw for his "plans to root out abuse of the system

... so they can be sent home quickly".

Another potential fan is the Richmond Times, which told its readers recently: "Fordes of refugee children from war-torn countries are depending on Richmond, leaving the council to pick up the bill." As if families being fired at in Rwanda are thinking: "Well, this is good for the kids, 'cos as long as they survive they can have a lovely

Analysis Law lords

Twelve of these men – for they are all men – will be the defenders of our newly-won human rights. The two in the thick border have just been chosen. There was no advertisement, no interview, no selection panel. Just secret soundings. The same applies to their replacements in the Appeal Court, to be chosen soon. It's high time things changed.

By Clare Dyer

HOW to choose a judge, docket one. The appointee is going to play a key role in protecting human rights, so the British state took pains to ensure a lawyer with the most knowledge and experience was chosen. The job was advertised. From the 33 applicants who submitted a CV, a shortlist of five was drawn up. To interview them a high-powered assessment panel convened, on it two of the country's most senior judges, the permanent secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Department, the chief legal adviser to another government department, and as a lay representative, the former deputy chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Joanna Foster. One of the judges on the panel, Lord Justice Simon Brown, was a public lawyer with years of experience of fighting the battles of individual versus state both at the Bar and on the bench.

That was the process by which this year the name of Nicolas Bratza QC was put forward to become Britain's first full-time judge at the European Court of Human Rights, which sits in Strasbourg under the aegis of the Council of Europe.

By contrast, docket two: the procedure by which Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Hobhouse emerged to become the newest of Britain's 12 law lords, our supreme court. For them, no advertisement, no CVs, no interviews and no selection panel. Instead, "soundings", secret chats among other senior judges – the other law lords, the Master of the Rolls (Lord Woolf) and the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Bingham). The Lord Chancellor recommended the appointments to the Prime Minister, who put the names forward to the Queen.

Yet those law lords, Millett and Hobhouse, will play a bigger role than Nicolas Bratza in safeguarding the rights of the individual against the state in Britain. Once the Human Rights Bill incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) comes into force next year, Britain's citizens will be able to enforce their fundamental human rights in their own courts.

Cases will go to the law lords on appeal, giving them huge influence on how the judiciary exercises its new and demanding role as the guardian of our basic rights and freedoms. Since the law lords sit in panels of five (with at least a three-two majority to decide the issue), a single judge can swing the balance decisively in the new full-time European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg, where judges will sit in groups of seven or 17, the scope for individual influence is less.

The law lords are about to change fundamentally. They are taking on a role akin to that of the United States Supreme Court or the South African constitutional court. Yet to the public they are unknown. They are selected by a secret process which involves a politician, and an unelected one at that (the Lord Chancellor).

In the United States, candidates for the Supreme Court bench are quizzed publicly about their views by the Senate Judiciary Committee. South Africa has a judicial service commission with lay representation which subjects candidates for the constitutional court to lengthy interviews, often in public. The retired permanent secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department, Sir Thomas Legg, not known for his radicalism, recently suggested that the House of Lords, once reformed, might set up a judiciary committee which would question law lords-elect in public. Lord Mackay, Lord Chancellor in the last Conservative government, was convinced that judges' political views would have to come under scrutiny if the ECHR were incorporated into domestic law – his main reason for opposing the move.

The experience of other countries shows that the backgrounds and views of the judges in the final appeal

court do matter in how rights are interpreted. Anne Bayefsky, professor of law at York University in Toronto, notes that the supreme court of Canada started out interpreting that country's charter of rights and freedoms liberally but later rowed back as its personnel changed.

"The Canadian supreme court's general retrenchment on charter review in recent years seems to have more to do with changes in the court's membership and particular judicial personalities than principle," she wrote in the *European Human Rights Law Review* (1). "The crucial role of judicial experience and predisposition to the outcome of charter cases, and the fact that an entrenched bill of rights inevitably gives judges the responsibility of defining and applying basic community values, means the legitimization of judicial decisions will depend on greater representation on the bench from different segments of society. A judiciary which seeks – albeit usually covertly – to gain general assent for the fundamental moral decisions made inevitable by a constitutional bill of rights will require a greater diversity of membership than is hitherto the case in either Canada or Britain."

In Britain there is little prospect of greater diversity while the pool of candidates remains so restricted and advice about new appointments comes mainly from those already on the bench. A 1992 report on the judiciary from the all-party law reform group Justice, chaired by Robert Stevens (now Master of Pembroke College, Oxford) pointed out that four senior judges have an effective power of veto over High Court appointments (2). "Selection relies heavily on the views of those in post, and there has proved to be a risk of bias towards self-replication." It's more than a risk. Senior judges

come from a remarkably similar background, male, white, public school and Oxbridge, which has changed little in the past 50 years. There are no women among the law lords, only one among the 35 Appeal Court judges, and seven among the 97 High Court judges. Ethnic minorities are completely absent from the higher judiciary. There are no black full-time judges at any level, and only four (mainly Asian) ethnic minority circuit judges out of 558.

This week two new judges are due to be appointed to the Appeal Court to fill the gaps left by Hobhouse and Millett. They are certain to be white, but will they be male? The Association of Women Barristers, the Association of Women Solicitors, and the Fawcett Society have been lobbying for the appointment of two women, Dame Mary Arden and Dame Brenda Hale, both of Appeal Court calibre. Arden still has some time to serve as chairman of the Law Commission, so is probably not in the running. But will Lord Irvine the Lord Chancellor, who talks

a good line on equal opportunities, put his words into action and double the number of women from one to two?

The current system could hardly be better designed as a way of keeping things as they are, filling the bench with "people like us". Full-time judges for the High Court and the circuit bench are drawn from the pool of practising barristers and solicitors who have sat for several years as part-time recorders or deputy High Court judges. Files are kept on them from the time they first apply for part-time posts. Soundings are taken from judges, leaders of the Bar and solicitors' profession, and senior colleagues. Comments are given on the basis that the candidate will never be told what has been said about them or who said what. They have none of the rights of civil servants or other employees to look at their file.

Labour planned, once in power, to open up this fusty system through a new judicial appointments commission, replacing the soundings with a more scientific method of selection and bringing in a lay ele-

ment. In Law Reform For All, published a year before Labour came to power, Lord Irvine put forward the radical suggestion that there should be three new non-lawyer members for the House of Lords, whose votes would rank equally with the judges, to be appointed from a list drawn up by an independent judicial appointments commission (3). Once in office, he shelved the idea.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, the new prisons minister, still favours a commission. He has advocated a judicial college to deal with appointments and training since his time as chairman of the Bar in 1992. In 1994 he described a decision by the Conservative Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, to advertise appointments to the circuit bench as "no more than cosmetic tinkering" (4). Lord Williams has since extended the tinkering to High Court appointments. In the same article Lord Williams said an incident in which Lord Mackay tried to tell a judge how to deal with appeals raised questions about whether a Lord Chancellor should have any direct control

over judges' appointments (4). A worrying feature of the present composition of the Lords is that none of the judges is an expert in criminal law. Some of their judgments have brought confusion rather than clarification to an important area of the law and one where they will have a bigger role after incorporation of the ECHR. Why no criminal lawyer? Because those seen as having the best brains tend to come from commercial law backgrounds and those are the judges who are promoted. Distinguished academic lawyers, who have been among the most successful appeal judges in other countries, could fill the gap and help to widen the judicial pool.

The Justice report, from a committee which included three leading QCs, an ex-president of the Law Society and a former circuit judge, called for an appointments commission with a small judicial input, but a lay majority. It would hold selection boards, like the Civil Service, and advise the Lord Chancellor on appointments. As judges are increasingly called upon to examine the

validity of legislation and executive action, the way they are chosen should be at least partially isolated from the executive, said Justice. Robert Stevens, chairman of the committee, spent much of his career in the US and was a professor of law at Yale. The author of several books on the judiciary and the administration of justice, he favours a commission which would appoint rather than advise. "You can't in this day and age have a system in which, however much consultation there is, none of it is in public and none of it is open to any scrutiny. Here is a politician, a member of the cabinet making appointments. In what sense are they political? Only the English could describe that as apolitical."

Sources: (1) 1997 *European Human Rights Law Review*, issue 5; (2) *The Judiciary in England and Wales*, Justice, 1992; (3) David Bean (ed), *Law Reform For All*, Blackstone Press, 1996; (4) A new tune for old tricks, *Guardian*, May 24, 1994. Researcher: Matthew Keating. Clare Dyer is the Guardian's legal correspondent.



From Trotsky to Tony
8



Lord Browne-Wilkinson
Age 65
Educated Lancing, Oxford, Christ Church, QC 1976
Chancery
Knighted 1977



Lord Clyde
Age 66
Educated Edinburgh Academy, Oxford and Edinburgh
QC Scotland 1971
College of Justice of Scotland



Retiring October:
Lord Goff of Chieveley
Age 71
Educated Eton, Oxford, Inner Temple
Queen's Bench
Knighted 1975



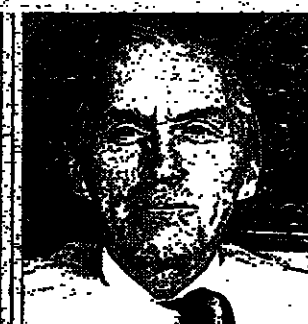
Just appointed:
Sir John Hobhouse
Age 66
Educated Eton, Oxford, Inner Temple
QC 1973
Queen's Bench
Knighted 1982



Lord Hoffmann
Age 63
Educated South African College School, Cape Town, Cape Town and Oxford, Gray's Inn
QC 1977
Chancery
Knighted 1985



Lord Hope of Craighead
Age 59
Educated Edinburgh University and Trinity College, Cambridge
QC Scotland 1978
Court of Session



Lord Hutton
Age 66
Educated Strimling, Oxford
QC Northern Ireland 1970
High Court of Justice, NI
Knighted 1988



Likely to retire soon:
Lord Lloyd of Berwick
Age 68
Educated Eton, Cambridge, Inner Temple
QC 1967
Queen's Bench
Knighted 1978



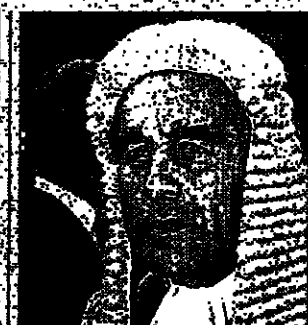
Just appointed:
Sir Peter Millett
Age 66
Educated Harrow, Cambridge, Middle Temple
QC 1973
Chancery
Knighted 1988



Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead
Age 64
Educated Birkenhead School, Cambridge, Middle Temple
QC 1974
Chancery
Knighted 1983



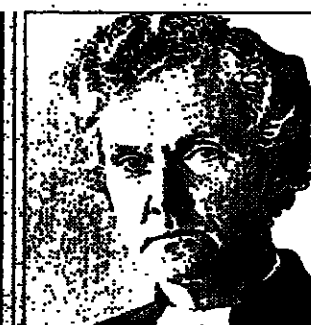
Retiring October:
Lord Steyn
Age 65
Educated Appleton, Oxford, Middle Temple
QC 1988
Queen's Bench
Knighted 1992



Possible candidates:
Lord Phillips
Age 50
Educated Eton, Cambridge, Middle Temple
QC 1975
Queen's Bench
Knighted 1997



Lord Saville of Newdigate
Age 61
Educated Eton, Cambridge, Oxford, Middle Temple
Queen's Bench
Knighted 1995



Lord Slynn of Hadley
Age 67
Educated Sandbach School, London and Cambridge, Gray's Inn
Queen's Bench
Knighted 1976



Lord Steyn
Age 65
Educated Jan van Riebeck, Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Oxford, Lincoln's Inn
QC 1979
Queen's Bench
Knighted 1985

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FinanceGuardian

Go-it-alone NatWest profit of £976m restores pride

Jill Tresson

NATWEST yesterday moved to restore its badly damaged prestige in the City by unveiling a stunning set of half-time figures which showed profits roaring ahead by almost 50 per cent.

Investors showed their approval by pushing the bank's shares up 10 per cent, the biggest rise since the pound crashed out of Europe's exchange rate mechanism in 1992.

The results — which showed pre-tax profits of £976 million — were a huge surprise for the market which had been looking for around £320 million at best. They provided a marked contrast to last year when the bank suffered the humiliation of finding a £30 million hole in its derivatives operation and threw in the towel on its expensive equities business.

Those troubles fuelled speculation that the bank was desperate to clinch a merger with a rival. But Derek Wanless, chief executive, said yesterday that NatWest could go it alone.

"We don't need an acquisition or consolidation. We think we can do very well in

Customer facts sent in stray fax to restaurant

Financial staff

IT WAS the last thing that restaurateur Nick Sparey expected to see coming through the fax machines: confidential details of a dozen NatWest customers.

Instead of being sent internally to another part of

these circumstances," he said.

Mr Wanless described the bank's performance as a turnaround but added the figures were a "good start, but only a start".

The bank is concentrating on the core business in the UK although it is continuing to back a scaled-back version of its investment banking operation.

The UK operations, which includes corporate and retail banking as well as mortgages,

its business, NatWest sent faxes containing account numbers, sort codes and phone numbers for both private and corporate customers who had rung the bank's call centre in Theale, Berkshire.

The calls were supposed to be transferred to NatWest's Thames Valley

Service Centre but instead they were mistakenly faxed to Mr Sparey, at the Marlner restaurant in Quay Street, Cardigan, west Wales.

"I couldn't believe it," Mr Sparey said. "There were 12 pages of it, containing the sort of details that could so easily have caused chaos to people's bank accounts if it had fallen into the wrong hands."

"I have an account with the NatWest and I'm horrified at the thought that this kind of information can fly down a wire and end up at the wrong place."

When he rang the bank at Theale, Mr Sparey was told the fax had been destined for its Thames Valley ser-

vice centre and "someone must have sent it to the wrong number".

NatWest last night was inquiring into the mistake. "We take it very seriously and we are investigating it fully," a spokeswoman said.

The bank usually used internal numbers to send faxes between branches, which made the stray fax extremely unusual. It has been established that the Theale centre had been trying to send a different fax to the Cardigan branch.

The faxes included details of customers who had been calling to query entries on their bank statements or asking for copies of cheques.

Chip Kruger, chief executive of Greenwich NatWest, said he was negotiating a new pay deal for his remaining staff, whose numbers have been halved as a result of the sell-off of the unwanted equity business.

Talks with the NatWest Group are focusing on ways to encourage staff to behave like shareholders, where bonuses might be linked to the returns earned for shareholders.

NatWest also admitted it is in the midst of renegotiating the generous remuneration packages for its 100 corporate finance staff in the US employed by NatWest Gleacher.

The scheme is likely to match the deals agreed with the UK corporate financiers — now working at the operation known as Hawkpoint — where 50 per cent of the profits are transferred to a "pool" and shared out as bonuses over a deferred period. The deferred period, thought to be between two to three years, effectively handcuffs the bankers to NatWest and prevents them being lured away by rivals for even larger pay deals.

NatWest's Global Financial Markets operation, which includes its dealing operation, made profits of £156 million, up 7 per cent.

Greenwich NatWest, the investment banking arm, made profits of £55 million in those parts of the business which were left behind after the closure of much of its loss-making operation last year.

The fund management business increased its profits by 67 per cent, even though the troubled Gartmore operation has lost clients with funds of nearly £1 billion as a result of its poor performance.

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Notebook

Whipping boy now a favourite



Edited by Mark Milner

NATWEST has been the stock market's whipping boy for so long that it is entitled to enjoy its sudden translation into darling-of-the-day, if not flavour-of-the-month.

A series of retreats, from the United States in 1996 and equities business last year, had left NatWest looking strategically bereft. Its management in reported disarray and, most humiliating of all, the bank the subject of takeover speculation.

No longer. The 10 per cent surge in the share price in the wake of yesterday's interim figures — when the rest of the market was on the slide — was startling by any standards. Analysts enthused about the turnaround. Here was the NatWest playing to its strengths — the core UK banking business and asset management — and reaping the benefits.

Certainly the figures are good. It is impossible to see a 49 per cent rise at the pre-tax level in any other way, even if the increase was from a modest base. Costs are under firm control, loan provisions are down on the back of prudent lending and, at the halfway stage, NatWest is ahead of its self-imposed target of a 17 per cent return on equity for the year.

The only immediate question mark is whether the bank will be able to sustain the level of dealing profits. In the longer run, however, there is perhaps another, deeper concern. NatWest's strategy ties it more closely to what is happening in the UK economy which may be heading for a bumpy ride.

NatWest appears to be clear about what it is doing and acknowledges that plenty more still needs to be done. It is to be hoped that the City is equally focused, otherwise NatWest's re-rating may prove undeservedly transient.

Unusually in the City these days, Nomura has just issued a "sell" note on NatWest. Its value has slipped by £50 million from its £155 million float value just over a year ago. Nomura calculate that it is still £30 million too high.

Aside from the financial implications of players' wages rising at 25 per cent a year and the need to find a way to restore the team's fortunes on the pitch, reinstating Hall and Shepherd to the club after just four months in disgrace, say the brokers, "confirmed our worst fears" and "will inevitably lead to a further fall in the share price".

Mr Cassidy must be a masochist or soccer mad — not necessarily different things on Tyneside or simply addicted to life in the boardroom.

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Only three take hotline calls

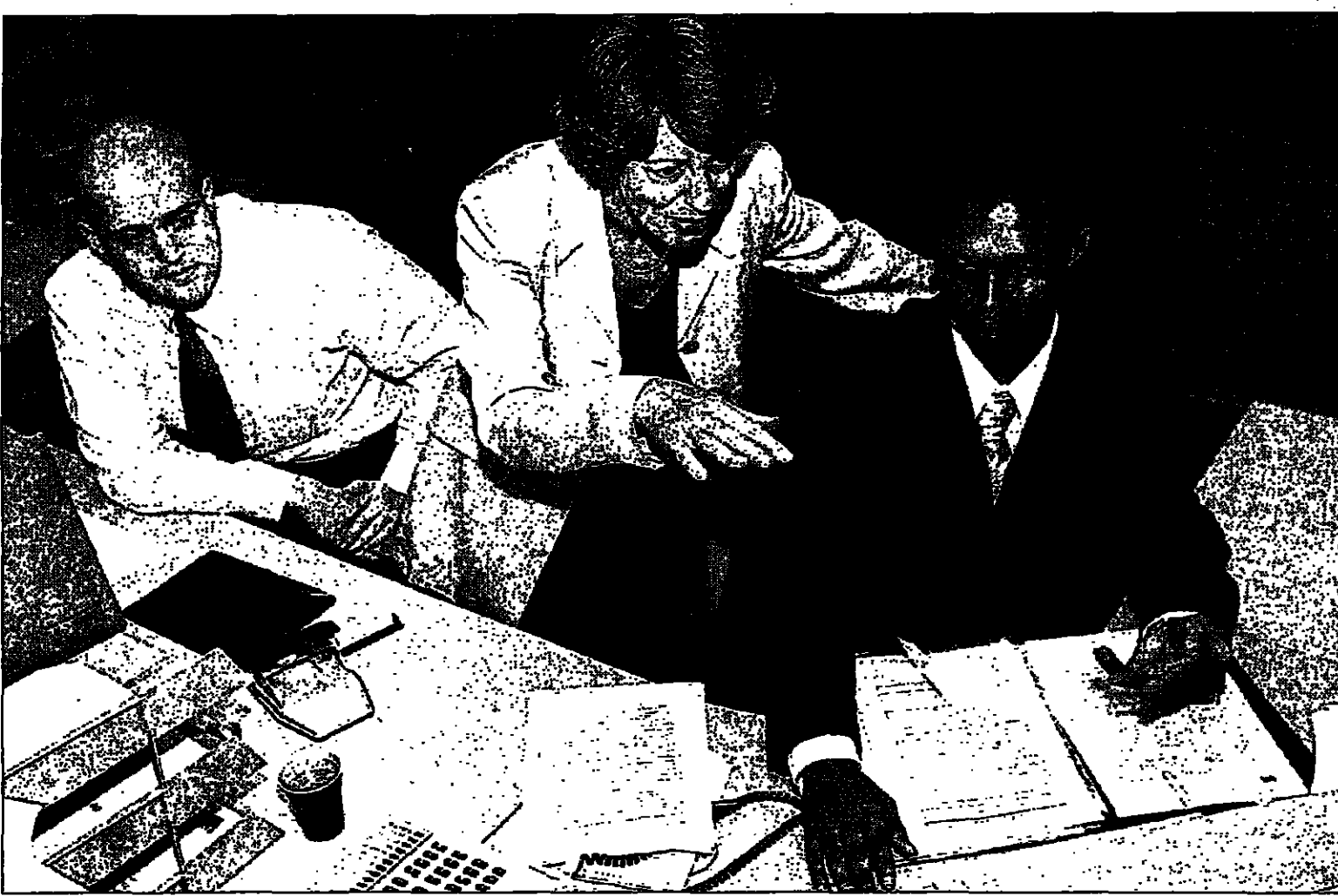
Rupert Jones

THE new Treasury economic secretary has pledged to maintain the pressure on firms guilty of pensions mis-selling. But she expressed surprise that a vital helpline dealing with calls from potential victims of the scandal was staffed by only three people.

Patricia Hewitt was speaking during a visit to the Financial Services Authority yesterday where she met helpline unit staff who handle calls from those who may have been mis-sold a personal pension.

The three staff handle between 80 and 100 calls a day each, from basic questions to complex queries on compensation. Ms Hewitt said much work remained to be done in clearing cases and insisted that there will be "no hiding place" for insurance companies and advisers.

Her remarks coincided with a fresh clampdown on firms which gave bad pension advice between 1988 and 1994. It was announced yesterday that 26 companies — mainly small independent fi-



Patricia Hewitt, new economic secretary, with Jamie Chalmers, left, and Kamal Hussein during her visit to the FSA helpline PHOTOGRAPH: DONA HANSON

ancial advisers — have been fined a total of £105,750 after failing to meet deadlines for compensating victims.

Any joy in the financial services industry at seeing Helen Liddell, who led the crusade

against mis-selling, promoted to the Scottish Office quickly evaporated when Ms Hewitt promised to be just as tough as her predecessor.

"Firms big and small will not be allowed to bury their

heads in the sand. Failure to act means disciplinary action," she said. Of particular concern was the poor progress being made by some IFAs in sorting out cases.

The FSA indicated the helpline unit could be given more staff if the level of calls required it. There are several other helplines dealing with other investor queries.

Yesterday's disciplinary action comes a month after 41

firms were penalised with fines of £157,000 for missing the deadline for compensating urgent cases of mis-selling. Regulators indicated there may be a further 100 such fines in the pipeline.

Professor says the Bank is wrong on inflation

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

THE all-powerful monetary policy committee at the Bank of England is misleading the country over inflation, according to one of the world's leading experts in econometrics.

Professor Ken Wallis of Warwick University says the MPC — which meets today to discuss a possible further increase in interest rates — is ignoring the accepted academic technique for calculating predictions of the rate of inflation.

Instead, says Prof Wallis, the MPC uses its own judgmental approach, which, not surprisingly, shows the rate of inflation heading towards its target.

The standard academic method would tend to have shown inflation rising faster than the MPC's forecast in the last year or so and Prof Wallis believes that interest rates may need to be higher than the current 7.5 per cent if inflation is to hit the Government's target.

"It's not a comfortable conclusion for the liberal-minded

to come to," said Prof Wallis yesterday.

City economists sympathise with Prof Wallis's view. One, who did not want to be named, said Prof Wallis was an exceptionally good econometrician. "If he says the Bank is doing something wrong technically in its modelling, then you can be pretty confident that it is."

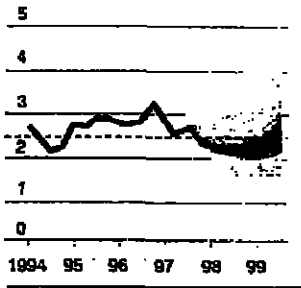
His criticism centres on the way in which the MPC draws up the so-called "fan" chart

Inflation

The Bank of England's target forecast

August 1997 inflation report

% increase in prices on a year earlier



which shows a range of possible paths for inflation over the next two years. Each is coloured a different shade of red — hence the chart's nickname, the Rivers of Blood — and the closer the path is to the MPC's central forecast the deeper the shade of red.

Prof Wallis says the chart is a welcome acknowledgement by the MPC that inflation forecasting is an imprecise science but he claims the way it is presented obscures an in-

flationary bias in the central forecast.

Instead of the MPC opting for its judgment of the most likely outcome, Prof Wallis says the committee should be following normal statistical practice and expressing its central forecast in terms of the expected average value of inflation.

If it did this, the central projection would have been higher in recent years. David Walton, UK economist at US investment bank Goldman Sachs and an adviser to the Commons Treasury committee, said: "I think the problem is that the Bank will always be reluctant to show inflation far from the target in either direction."

"So it shows a path close by and calls it the mode [the most likely outcome in the view of MPC members]. The econometric model churns out the mean [the average outcome on past experience]. Sometimes the two differ quite a bit."

The Bank's staff have examined Prof Wallis's paper and concede that the chart can be presented in a number of ways but insist that Prof Wallis is not necessarily the right one.

The implication of overesti-

mating inflation in the downward phase of the economic cycle is that interest rates may be kept higher than needed to hit the target.

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CBI attacks plan for energy tax

Roger Cowe

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday attacked plans for an energy tax put forward by a government task force chaired by Lord Marshall, the organisation's former president.

The business lobby said taxing industrial energy consumption could hit competitiveness and may not achieve the intended environmental improvements.

Peter Agar, CBI deputy director-general, said: "A single energy tax across industry is not the way forward. Taxes would have to be very high to change behaviour significantly, and in doing so could adversely affect our

competitiveness."

Lord Marshall was appointed to chair the Government task force in March, after last year's Earth Summit in Japan, which agreed binding cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

In a consultation paper published in June he outlined how trading of emissions permits could help cut pollution, and considered taxes on energy used by industry. The paper followed a report by the Government's business advisers on the environment, which advocated economic measures so long as they were designed with business in mind.

Lord Marshall said the measures could help reduce harmful emissions by working through the price mechanism.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.61
Austria 19.71
Belgium 57.94
Canada 2.33
Czechia 0.825
Denmark 10.78
Finland 8.83
France 5.39

Germany 2.80
Greece 466.46
Hong Kong 12.24
India 89.57
Ireland 1.109
Israel 5.58
Italy 2.785
Japan 1.63

Malaysia 6.78
Netherlands 2.15
New Zealand 3.09
Norway 12.03
Portugal 208.28
Saudi Arabia 5.89
Singapore 2.75
South Africa 9.90
Spain 237.44
Sweden 127.44
Switzerland 2.365
Turkey 428.640
USA 1.68

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shilling and malawi)

Football

Michael Walker sees the Magpies hierarchy back in place and appealing to the Geordie public to judge them on future performance

Newcastle duo look back in angst

THERE were no fan-fares, no pictures to capture the moment, not even a reporter from the News of the World around to record the emotion, but Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall, 11 days after they officially returned to the board of directors of Newcastle United, took their first tentative steps back into the national limelight yesterday.

At least Shepherd did. It may be more than four

months since they were forever tarnished in an unforgettable tale of "gutter lust", as the Sunday tabloid described it, but Hall, despite turning up at Newcastle's training ground alongside Shepherd, chose not to answer questions from the small gathering.

While Hall repaired to the fancy S-reg vehicle the pair had arrived in, Shepherd spoke publicly for the first time since his resignation as Newcastle chairman in

March about where he, Hall and Newcastle are now. "It's great to be back," said Shepherd in typically shy fashion, a manner that made stories of broiled creeping all the more fantastical. "As far as Douglas and I are concerned, it's all in the past. We hope everybody else will put it in the past as well and let's look forward."

That is easier done by Shepherd and Hall than by the public or the media, of

course, although Shepherd says he has received a "great reaction" from the Geordie general public in the past week and a half. "I think they realise we've apologised, we cannot do any more and that they've got to judge us on going forward, not what happened in the past. Of course there have been one or two wanting to put their point across and I've taken it. That's fine by me."

To a letter of apology sent to every Newcastle season-ticket holder Shepherd said that there has been "very favourable feedback", but he admitted that last season, on and off the field, Newcastle lost ground in people's eyes.

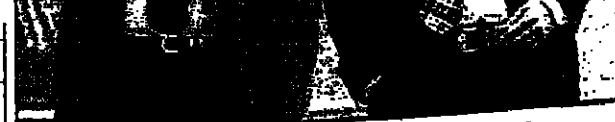
"It's silly to say we didn't lose ground last season; of course we did. Nobody can deny the poor league position but we have to come back. If we live in the past, we'll die in the past. Success on the field is what I call going for-

ward and we've got to put a smile back on this football club's face."

Regarding his private life he said that some sort of normality had returned to his marriage to Loralee. But this was a short, hesitant question-and-answer session and understandably Shepherd wanted to talk about Newcastle rather than his family affairs and he must have enjoyed finishing it with that most prosaic of chair-

man's tasks, the obligatory pre-season statement of support for the manager.

Shepherd said of Kenny Dalglish on the day the manager completed the signing of the Peru captain Norberto So-



Public duties... Shepherd (left) and Hall yesterday

lano and Bayern Munich's German midfielder Dietmar Hamann. "There is no boardroom pressure on Kenny, none at all. The only pressure is for success. He knows what the score is, as we all do."

Hendry joins Rangers for £4 million

Jon Brodick

COLIN HENDRY's wish was granted yesterday when he joined Rangers from Blackburn Rovers for almost £4 million. His arrival coincided with the departure of Ally McCoist, who signed for Kilmarnock after 15 years at Ibrox.

Hendry, who has a four-year contract, is the eighth signing made by Rangers' new coach Dick Advocaat. Blackburn had said they would not sell the 33-year-old Scotland centre-half for less than £5 million but agreed a deal involving payments based on international and club appearances.

"I was only going to move from Blackburn Rovers for one club and that was Glasgow Rangers," said Hendry. "It was a big factor for me as a professional footballer at the highest level of the game to be playing for arguably the biggest club in Britain. It was also very important for my family to come back to Scotland."

Hendry, ineligible for Rangers' UEFA Cup qualifier against PAOK Salonika of Greece next Tuesday, is likely to make his debut a week on Saturday against Motherwell.

His signing overshadowed the departure of McCoist, who rejected a late offer from Hibernian to join Kilmarnock on a one-year contract. The former Scotland striker, 36 next month, won 22 trophies at Ibrox.

"I was attracted to Kilmarnock for a number of reasons," he said. "You just have to look at the progress that they made in the last few years and their achievement in qualifying for Europe in the last couple of seasons."

Rangers have been fined £10,000 by UEFA's disciplinary committee for their fans' misbehaviour at the UEFA Cup qualifier against Shelbourne at Trammore two weeks ago.

Aston's Villa's manager John Gregory believes Manchester United will announce their interest in Dwight Yorke now that Patrick Kluijver has turned down a £9 million move to Old Trafford.

Gregory, who will sell Yorke only if Andy Cole joins Villa, said: "With Kluijver not going to United I would have thought Alex Ferguson would have been more concerned than ever about keeping Andy Cole, and that makes any deal for Dwight Yorke dead in the water."

Definitely off is the proposed £10 million transfer of Juninho to Villa from Atletico Madrid. The Brazil forward, who spent 18 months at Middlesbrough, said it was "not the right moment in my career to return to the Premiership."

Bradford City have withdrawn their £900,000 offer for Sami Alou after discovering the West Ham striker has malaria. He is believed to have contracted the disease during a trip to the Ivory Coast.

Bolton have signed the 19-year-old Icelandic striker Eir Gudjonsson from PSV Eindhoven on a free transfer. Also moving on free are Tony Roberts from Queens Park Rangers to Millwall, and Michael Meaker, from Reading to Bristol Rovers.

Portsmouth will sign the midfielder Thomas Thøgersen from Brøndby today and are likely to sell their Australia midfielder Craig Porter to Crystal Palace. Richard Rufus has signed a new four-year contract at Charlton.



Getting shirty... Dennis Wise struggles to retain possession as he is tackled by Atletico's Zoran Njegos

FRED BENT

Van Hooijdonk faces suspension

PIERRE Van Hooijdonk insisted last night that he will not be returning to Nottingham Forest even though he could face the prospect of being suspended from all football.

The Dutch striker, who still has four years of his contract to run, is adamant that he will not return to the City Ground. The 28-year-old, who had been due to report back to pre-season training with Forest on Tuesday, broke the news to the Nottingham Forest manager Dave Bassett yesterday.

"I made it clear that my decision was nothing personal. In fact, I think he understood my point of view," said Van Hooijdonk.

Cutting Forest's lack of ambition as his reason for staying in Holland, the striker added: "When I

came at the end of the relegation season, things were tough enough and now, two years down the road, the quality of the Premiership is even better, and Forest have done nothing to try and combat that situation."

In response to Van Hooijdonk's drastic action the club could prevent the Dutchman from playing elsewhere. However, he is hoping they will agree to the transfer request which was rejected last week — a decision which led him to remain in Holland.

"If Pierre doesn't return tomorrow," said Bassett, "then the club will fine and suspend him. Obviously I'm disappointed. I wanted him to come and play. If he decides in a week's time to come back and play, there will be no ill feeling whatsoever."

Gelderland Tournament: Atletico Madrid 4 Chelsea 0

Wise off as Chelsea crash

John Luke

GIANLUCA VIALLI left Arsenal's futuristic stadium with plenty to think about last night, after his vaunted defence was breached four times and his captain Dennis Wise was sent off after clashing with an opponent who was also dismissed.

Wise, who will wait anxiously to see what interpretation the referee puts on his dismissal in the match report, was involved in a flare-up with Carlos Aguilera nine minutes from time which resulted in players from both sides surrounding the Chelsea captain, who had appeared to tread on Aguilera.

The clash was one of several incidents in a bad-tempered second half, although by that time the result was

almost academic following two first-half goals from Juninho, which effectively won the game before the teams tucked into their half-time drinks.

There was some consolation for Chelsea fans, however, as the new signings Pierluigi Casiraghi, Marcel Desailly and Brian Laudrup were not playing. But their team as a whole did little to worry Jose Francisco Molina in the Atletico goal.

Albert Ferrer, a £2.2 million signing from Barcelona, was the only one of Chelsea's summer buys to start, and he was asked to mark Juninho.

He kept the Brazilian quiet until four minutes from the break, when an error by Michael Duberry proved expensive as Juninho was allowed to run through, slip past Dmitri Kharchin and knock the ball in.

The former Middlesbrough midfielder, who missed out on France 98 as he broke a leg in the spring and was not considered to be recovered in time by Brazil's then coach Mario Zagallo, accepted another simple chance less than two minutes later, after Ferrer opened up the defence before laying on a tap-in.

Earlier both sides had had appeals for penalties turned down, Atletico's coming when Dan Petrescu, Bernard Lambourde and Mark Nichols replacing Roberto Di Matteo, Frank Sinclair and Flo.

Nicholls had one of Chelsea's better chances in injury time but he screwed his shot wide. And it was Arrigo Sacchi's team who put the goal on the evening when Vladimir Jugovic, a £5 million signing from Lazio, slipped the ball past the hapless Kharchin.

The Uruguayan went closest to pulling back a goal three minutes after the restart when he headed over from Le Saux's cross. But Atletico, far and away the better side, were gifted a third goal 17 minutes from time when Kharchin allowed a 25-yard freekick from the substitute Oscar Mesa to squirm under his body.

Moments earlier Vialli made a triple substitution, with Dan Petrescu, Bernard Lambourde and Mark Nichols replacing Roberto Di Matteo, Frank Sinclair and Flo.

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Cricket

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Complete county scores

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WOL 15 WIMP LAM, LIT 10 BIL, NEU 14

Results

Football

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

First Division

Aberdeen (H) 0

Clydebank (A) 0

Dundee (H) 1

Dundee United (A) 1

Greenock Morton (H) 0

Hibernian (A) 1

Kilmarnock (H) 1

Motherwell (A) 1

Rangers (H) 1

Stirling Albion (A) 0

Tottenham (H) 1

Tottenham (A) 1

Tottenham (H) 1

Tottenham (A) 1

Tottenham (H) 1

Tottenham (A) 1

Tottenham (H) 1

Tottenham (A) 1

Tottenham (H) 1

Tottenham (A) 1

Tottenham (H) 1

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tampa Bay 1

Chicago White Sox 0

New York Yankees 1

Boston Red Sox 0

Los Angeles Angels 1

Seattle Mariners 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Basketball

NBA

Miami Heat 1

Orlando Magic 0

New York Knicks 1

Boston Celtics 0

Los Angeles Lakers 1

Seattle SuperSonics 0

San Antonio Spurs 1

Houston Rockets 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Tennis

ATP

Pete Sampras 1

Andre Agassi 0

New York Yankees 1

Boston Celtics 0

Los Angeles Lakers 1

Seattle SuperSonics 0

San Antonio Spurs 1

Houston Rockets 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Cricket

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP

Somerset 1

Gloucestershire 0

New York Yankees 1

Boston Celtics 0

Los Angeles Lakers 1

Seattle SuperSonics 0

San Antonio Spurs 1

Houston Rockets 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Crown Green Bowls

WATFORD

New York Yankees 1

Boston Celtics 0

Los Angeles Lakers 1

Seattle SuperSonics 0

San Antonio Spurs 1

Houston Rockets 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Squash

WELSH OPEN

New York Yankees 1

Boston Celtics 0

Los Angeles Lakers 1

Seattle SuperSonics 0

San Antonio Spurs 1

Houston Rockets 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Snooker

WELSH OPEN

New York Yankees 1

Boston Celtics 0

Los Angeles Lakers 1

Seattle SuperSonics 0

San Antonio Spurs 1

Houston Rockets 0

St. Louis Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh Pirates 0

Cincinnati Reds 1

Milwaukee Brewers 0

San Francisco Giants 1

Los Angeles Dodgers 0

San Diego Padres 1

Houston Astros 0

Cricket

Australia appeal for lbw by video

Mike Selvey

THE sound of breaking glass as another bat is flung through a dressing-room window by an aggrieved batsman could become a thing of the past by the millennium if Australian plans to extend the use of technology in assessing umpiring decisions come to fruition.

The Australian Cricket Board yesterday called for the development of computers and cameras to deliver fool-proof leg-before verdicts. Video replays are currently available to umpires in international matches but hitherto they have been used only for run outs, stumpings, boundary calls and, latterly, to assess whether catches have been taken cleanly. But, according to the ACB national umpiring manager Tony Cramer, there is no reason why, in the next year or so, leg-before decisions should not be delivered with the benefit of new technology, so eradicating the sort of contentious leg-before decisions that became such an issue in the recent Trent Bridge Test.

"I wouldn't want to see the human element completely taken out," admits Cramer, who before his retirement was Australia's leading umpire. "But I would like to see what is being proposed. It is important in cricket and modern sport in general that the right decisions are given. The lbw is a decision that relies entirely on the umpire's discretion."

There is little evidence to suggest that the standard of umpiring has fallen in recent years but the use of television replays, often in super-slow motion, and the employment of video screens for spectators

have meant the fallibility of officials is more exposed. Simply maintaining a *status quo* is not sufficient in such a high-pressure era, where the stakes are high and getting higher.

Already this summer Mark Ramprakash and Allan Donald, one directly to an umpire, the other in print, have expressed the view that inaccurate decision-making has a direct bearing not only on matches but also on careers, and it is hard to argue that the game would not be the same without the human element and all its failings.

If players are to accept decisions with equanimity, as they are expected to, then they deserve the most accurate possible decision-making process. Nobody seriously believes that the use of the third umpire for line-calls has detracted from the game; the sense of theatre while a decision is being reached actually enhances the experience.

More than a decade ago the then Test and County Cricket Board set up a working party under the chairmanship of the physicist and astronomer Sir Bernard Lovell to investigate the use of "artificial aids" to detect and differentiate, among other things, the sounds when a ball strikes the edge of a bat, pad or both. The findings are filed away at Lord's.

This week the head of the Sports Research Unit at Cape Town University has said he could develop in weeks a camera-based system that would accurately predict the path of a ball for leg-before decisions while the same research team have suggested a microchip in the ball would be able to detect whether contact had been made with bat or pad.

Ramprakash proves fitness

MARK RAMPRAKASH successfully came through a voluntary net session at Headingley yesterday, calming England's fears over his fitness before the deciding Test against South Africa starting there tomorrow.

The Middlesex batsman had tonsillitis just before the last Test at Trent Bridge but justified his decision to play by scoring an unbeaten 67 in England's first innings.

When he failed to get better after that match, the selectors

put John Crawley, Nick Knight and Robin Smith on a short-list of possible replacements.

Ramprakash was joined at yesterday's net session by Andrew Flintoff, the captain Alec Stewart, Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain.

"I'm hoping to play but the illness does leave me feeling a little tired and lethargic," Ramprakash admitted. "I'm happy with the way things are progressing." Tests have ruled out glandular fever.

Police to adopt 'soccer' security

POLICE are to use football intelligence and high technology in their attempt to control the crowd at the fifth Test between England and South Africa which starts at Headingley tomorrow.

In the past there has been trouble on the Western Terrace, which holds 5,000, and disturbances during the first Test at Edgbaston have led West Yorkshire Police to adopt similar methods to those used by the National Football Intelligence Unit.

For the first time at a Test in England there will be video surveillance equipment and plain-clothed "spotters" with knowledge of local hotspots.

David Boyle, the match commander for police operations at Headingley, said: "There is increasing evidence that people are attending in order to extend their football xenophobia within cricket. We have

seen this in the wearing of football stripes, the football banners in the crowd and organised chanting."

Alcohol will be banned on the Terrace and spectators in other areas will be limited to one bottle of wine or four cans each. The restrictions on fancy dress implemented during the Texaco Trophy at Headingley and adopted at Old Trafford for the third Test will also be in force.

The drive follows a number of serious incidents during Headingley Tests. In 1992 a pig's head was paraded on the Western Terrace during the visit of Pakistan in 1992, and in 1993 the reserve wicket-keeper, Tim Zoster, was punched as he boarded the Australian coach during the Ashes series.

Despite the interest since the Trent Bridge victory 6,000 tickets are available for tomorrow, 1,000 for Friday and 2,000 for Saturday.

Days of hope



The last success... Chris Broad, in towel, joins in the celebrations in Melbourne after England's victory won the Ashes in 1986. PHOTOGRAPHS: ADRIAN MURRELL

The undaunted Spirit of '86 could end England's twelve barren years

David Foot talks to the opening batsman Chris Broad, whose towering presence dominated the last major series victory

CHRIS BROAD's bat dripped with gold during the 1986-87 tour of Australia, the last time England won a major series. He scored hundreds in three successive Tests, at Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne, topped the averages at just under 70 and earned himself the keys of an Alfa Romeo as International Player of the Series.

The left-hander's residency at the cruce seemed reassuringly permanent. He had the build of a rugby No. 8, which he used to be after all. The stance was upright, posterior distinctly protruding. No one in those days could clip better off his legs. He was blessed with courage, as paraded against the West Indies fast bowlers, and cursed on occasions with the burden of a self-critical, petulant temperament.

There was always an independent streak to his nature.

Oz, Broad is able to take a fond though detached view of what happened then. He lives back in Bristol, where he was born and where he went to school at Colston's, under the wizen, wonderful tutelage of Gloucestershire's one-Test all-rounder Reg Sinfield.

What was there about that Eighties tour? After all, England had just lost three series on the trot and suffered eight wretched defeats, without a

— with his British bulldog approach. It was in every sense a happy, relaxed tour with the players allowed to do their own thing up to a point.

"Yet nothing had gone our way in the opening fixtures. There was that much-quoted report from cricket writer Martin Johnson just before the Brisbane Test, saying we had only three problems: we could not bat, bowl or field. Photocopies were sent to us

the players are now a bit fitter. There's more emphasis on things like diet and mental attitude. Such considerations are valid if they improve performances. But I question whether they do. The game is difficult enough without the players having to concern themselves with these additional aspects.

"I'll be the first to cheer if we win at Headingley and I believe it can be done. But England had the champagne out on the balcony at Trent Bridge. That seemed to me rather misplaced and premature. Did they get just a little carried away?"

Broad, a gifted and possibly underestimated cricketer, has not always had an easy life. He was seriously ill with a bone marrow defect in his early teens and faced disappointment throughout his career.

"I was booted out of Notts two years short of what should have been my benefit. The club awarded one to themselves instead." And an arthritic hip ended his not entirely cordial return to Gloucestershire.

Now he has a new hip and a new career in broadcasting. He remains an amalgam of charm and forthrightness which has at times worked against him. Never one to compromise, he says: "There are still too many amateurs in professional cricket. Take the 18 chairmen who liaise with the Cricket Board. In a professional game I'm simply not in favour of the amateurs being able to make the decisions."

'Botham ranted and raved, full of expletives as well as good sense'

single win in 11 Tests?

"Well, there was Ian Botham for a start. We'd had a nightmare beginning and by the time we got to Brisbane for the first Test some of the senior players were just kicking into gear. When it came to the team talk on the eve of the match, Micky Stewart and Mike Gatting had their say and then 'Both' was asked what he thought."

This, according to Broad, was when the tour started. "He ranted and raved a bit, full of expletives as well as good sense. He assured us that, if we failed, we'd have him to answer to — and he was really only a senior player. I listened and admired his attitude. Blimey, this bloke was serious, I said to myself. And he went out and scored 138 as we won by seven wickets."

"Another consideration was the way he took the media spotlight off other players. They were free of that particular pressure — at least until he was gone. As an individual he could handle it."

"Both was such a great influence in that series, especially when things were not going terribly well. On this one he could change things either with bat or ball, in half an hour. I remember how he'd take on Merv Hughes and win. He'd take the Aussie attack apart. We would watch from back in the dressing-room and be caught up in his enthusiasm. He could, we felt, win us the game when hobbling on one leg."

"Peter Lush and Micky Stewart were our managers. And then there was 'Gard' who'd taken over from David Gower as captain by this time

and they helped to act as the catalysts we needed. We decided we weren't going to be written off. In fact, from then on we never doubted that we would win the series."

From that calamitous start, when England were bowled out in less than four hours by Queensland and then showed equally poor form against Western Australia, Allan Border and his side were the undisputed favourites. That helped to cement an outstanding team spirit, visible on the field, which did not desert the tourists. Because of a rib injury Botham was missing, not least his vociferous goading, for the Adelaide Test. Back he came for Melbourne at medium-pace off a restricted run and still took five for 41.

"I don't think too much has changed in the meantime," Broad continues. "Perhaps

Rugby Union

Beaten Cardiff ready to quit Wales

Paul Ross

CARDIFF yesterday reached the point of no return in their move to join the proposed European club tournament that would supersede the Heineken Cup.

The wealthiest club in Wales lost their High Court case with the Welsh Rugby Union and will now face expulsion if they join the elite breakaway clubs.

Dennis Gethin, the WRU secretary, was delighted with the ruling but still felt the victory rang hollow. "It gives us no great satisfaction at having to contest an action with one of our leading clubs," he said. "But it is vital that we all work together to achieve success for Welsh rugby as a whole."

The three Celtic nations have voiced collective disapproval at the proposed European Club Super Competition. They are unhappy with the Rugby Football Union which is applying concerted pressure on the French federation (FFR) to win them round to the merits of a 32-team tournament. It would feature 14 clubs from England, 14 from France, two from Scotland, and Cardiff and Swansea. Matches would be played on Saturdays rather than in mid-week as originally intended.

The Celtic unions have all spoken to Bernard Lapasset, the president of the FFR, and have formed the intention that the French will back the beleaguered European Rugby Cup which meets in Dublin on Friday. Their spleen is thus reserved for the RFU.

"We should all tell the RFU to get stuffed," said the former Scotland flanker John Jeffrey, an ERC director. "The whole thing stinks. The RFU are shareholders in ERC and, as such, they should be supporting the Heineken Cup rather than trying to bring it down. They should stand up to the owners of the English clubs who are motivated by their own interests, not those of European rugby. The French must stand firm and the IRB should get involved."

The president of the Irish RFU, Noel Murphy, was equally forthright. "By their activity the RFU and the English clubs are likely to endanger and damage the interests of the other unions willing and anxious to take part in the two European competitions this season."

Naturally Cardiff see it differently. "If the French give their consent, the new European tournament will go ahead," said the club's chief executive Gareth Davies. "We would join it because it offers clubs and unions the chance to work together, clubs running their competitions and the union looking after the international game."



Driving force... Broad on his way to 162 in Perth

Athletics

Malcolm runs out of steam

Duncan Mackay in Cardiff

CHRISTIAN MALCOLM was given the kind of valky welcome befitting a record conquering hero in last night's Welsh Games at the Leckwith Stadium. But the teenage sprinter, winner of two gold medals at last week's World Junior Championships, disappointed the crowd gathered to greet him by withdrawing from the 100 metres because of tiredness.

Nine races in six days took their toll on the 19-year-old Newport sprinter and his efforts last night were confined to a low-key relay.

Malcolm, who is on the books of Lifford Christie's management agency, will make a short break before racing in Zurich next Wednesday, the scene of his victory over Carl Lewis 12 months ago.

It was the second consecutive occasion the Welsh public had been disappointed as

last year Frankie Fredericks had been refused permission to compete in the meeting by the Namibian federation.

But Paul Gray gave them something to cheer when he raced to victory in the 400m hurdles, claiming the scalp of Kenya's African champion Eric Keter.

Since coming under the coaching guidance of Christie, the 26-year-old has improved beyond recognition. He has broken through the 50-second barrier and cracked the Welsh record twice.

"It's an awesome feeling having Lifford as your coach and backer," said Gray. "When I was younger he was my ultimate sporting hero — and now he is my coach."

Denise Lewis, the world heptathlon silver medalist, used the event as a final warm-up before the European Championships. She will have been encouraged by her performance in the 100m hurdles, finishing second to Jamaica's Bridget Foster.

Sailing

Cudmore bows to bigger boats

Bob Fisher at Cowes

PETER HARRISON, the charterer of *Russe Noir* 98, the boat which won Class 1 on the two previous days, said: "It was perfect." He was referring not so much to the boat as to the conditions.

Sunshine and 12-18 knots of north-westerly breeze saw smiling faces on the 835 competing boats, who all had a downwind start to the east before racing towards the west.

Harrison's charter includes the services of Harold Cudmore but even he could not squeeze the extra fractions of a knot out of *Russe Noir* that were needed for her to win yesterday and things did not go his way. "It's the bigger boats to whom we have to give time that hurt us today," he said.

He was right. Richard Loftus's Swan 65 *Accurist*

won the day's top prize, the Bathsheba Trophy, by six minutes while *Russe Noir*, second across the line, slipped to eighth after the handicaps had been computed. Richard Matthews' 12-metre *Crusader* took third place.

The good weather may have accounted for some of the Class 2 competitors sailing the wrong course. Not too many wanted to stay below to listen to the radio for the instructions, which were altered after the course had first been set. Only three boats sailed the correct course, two of which might have won anyway. Stephen Fein's Swan 48 *Full Felt*, sailed by Jo Richards, was 2½ minutes better than Ken Trench's *Divra*.

Stephen James, owner of the Swan 40 *Jacobite* protested over *Full Felt* and *Divra*, alleging they did not sail the correct course. The outcome may see the race declared null and void.

Hockey

England cut a sharper edge

Pat Rowley

ENGLAND women have sharpened up their attack since the World Cup and yesterday Canada felt its steel when they went down 5-3 in the first match of the three-Test series at Milton Keynes.

Canada took the lead through Kristen Taunton before Denise Marston-Smith converted a penalty to equalise and Pina Cullen saw England to a 2-1 half-time lead.

Cullen made it 3-1 from a corner but sloppy defence let Chris Hunter and Jenny Zink-McGrade level.

But England responded quickly and a perfect through-ball from Jacky Empson was lashed into goal by Jane Sixsmith, who broke through again to present Jane Smith with England's fifth.

Read the game



Every day in the Guardian, Britain's best sports writers — including the award-winning David Lacey — bring you in-depth analysis of the beautiful game. What's more, on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays you'll find dedicated sports sections, packed with feature stories, interviews and a comprehensive results service. And if that's not enough to satisfy your craving, why not log on to www.football.guardian.co.uk — the smartest, funniest and most lively website around. Keep your eye on the ball — read the game.

Every day in *The Guardian*

Hall and Shepherd back in the fold, page 14
Hendry signs at Ibrox, page 14

Australians call for lbw cameras, page 15
Cardiff face expulsion from Union, page 15

SportsGuardian

Festina trio back in action

William Fotheringham on yesterday's return to racing of riders thrown off the Tour de France who have admitted taking drugs

ALEX ZILLE, Laurent Dufaux and Armin Meier, the three Swiss cyclists who were thrown off the Tour de France over doping and later confessed to using the banned drug erythropoietin, returned to racing yesterday evening in the A Travers Lausanne event.

If the trio had wanted to underline the apparent lack of interest on the part of the governing body in punishing them, they could not have chosen a better location: the little Swiss town to the north of Geneva is the home of the Union Cycliste Internationale and the IOC.

The UCI's drug rules are

specific. "A rider who declares or admits having used doping substances without the usage being established by a dope control will be considered as positive on the day of his admission."

All three confessed to police in Lyon on July 22 that they had used the drug and followed that up with interviews to newspapers and television.

Meier, for example, said he had used the product for two years. Dufaux explained how he had raised his red blood cell level using it.

They, therefore, each face a ban of between six and 12 months, and a fine of £1,200. They are effectively being

allowed to race because cycling's governing bodies are passing the buck over what is a case without precedent. Leon Schattberg, a member of the UCI's anti-doping commission, explained: "In the rules it says that, if someone has broken the anti-doping rules, it is up to the national federation to make inquiries and sanction them within 30 days."

However, the Swiss Cycling Federation does not appear in any hurry to move the process along. Its president Hugo Steiner said yesterday it was unacceptable that sanctions be left to individual national federations, and the

UCI should recommend how the Festina riders be punished. Even after they were thrown off the Tour the Festina riders received strong public support and this continued yesterday. Zille was cheered loudly as he started the race and among the crowds lining the route of the 44-mile course were banners with slogans such as "We will always support Laurent Dufaux" and "Everyone with Festina".

The Lausanne race is run by the Swiss arm of Mark McCormack's IMG and the three riders are contracted to the company, which signed up a quality start list including the Tour winner Marco Pantani, and third-placed Bobby Julich. The previous evening two other members of the Festina team who were thrown off the

Tour made their comebacks in a circuit race in the Norman town of Lisieux. Pascal Hervé did not crack under police questioning over EPO use but the world champion Laurent Brochard did confess, although he has said he will sue the Tour organisers for expelling him.

The after-shocks of the drug scandals that rocked this year's Tour continue. Yesterday the Spanish team Once said they will not race in France again this year, and the Tour of Spain organisers may well change the route of a stage which makes a 50-mile incursion on to French soil. The Spanish Cycling Federation withdrew its team from the women's Tour de France. Tomorrow and Friday the UCI will hold a two-day brainstorming session over the



Zille... loudly cheered

drug problem with riders, teams and race organisers. No doubt the sight of cyclists who have confessed to using banned drugs racing outside its front door while awaiting punishment will have given food for thought.

The patriot bows to true speed



Paul Weaver

THE pitch at Headingley will be chloroformed, if the groundsman has any sense. It should be sedated, like one of Nurse Ratcliff's patients in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. It could be as flat as David Gifford's World Cup punditry.

But Allan Donald will still be fast. I hope he is. I hope he sends Michael Atherton's middle-stump cartwheeling towards Bradford. This is nothing against Atherton, who is something of a hero. Forget all that eyewitness about him not walking at Trent Bridge. No one walks these days, and at least Atherton makes his way to the pavilion when the umpire's finger goes up, which is more than you can say for some of them.

No, it is Donald I am interested in. At a time when the sports pages are awash with illegal substances it feels appropriate to come clean, to come out of the bathroom and admit to being a speed freak.

It is not every day that one simultaneously confesses to treason and to being a junkie, but long denial can sour the soul. Treason may be a bit strong. I hope England beat South Africa, for their first win in a full series for almost 12 years. But, if Donald bowls us to pieces that would be nice too.

Do you follow? The ambivalence is hard to rationalise but for me there is something about a great fast bowler at the gallop that elevates itself above petty allegiance. It is easy to share patriotic passions, to will Henman to beat Sampras and for Owen to nutmeg Ronaldo. But, when the fast bowler tears in, fingoism goes on hold. This is the acceptable face of blood sport; this is high drama.

A quarter of a century ago this Sussex supporter went to Lord's to cheer on his side in the Gillette Cup final against Gloucestershire. They were beaten but in a funny way it did not matter because Mike Procter had bowled like the wind, a wind that swung in and attacked stumps and ankles.

I was in Barbados in 1981, giggling with nervous excite-

ment as Michael Holding bowled an over to Geoffrey Boycott that more resembled an electrical storm than a piece of cricket.

Later that year, at The Oval, even a diminished Dennis Lillee bowled a spell against England that took the breath away. There are moments that set the pulse racing: impossible images of Imran Khan, all leap and inswing and menace; Waqar Younis sprinting in to unleash ton-crunchers; Malcolm Marshall swinging it both ways at his peak.

There is Holding again, at The Oval in 1976, and his memorable reprise there eight years later, when he lengthened his run to mark his last Test appearance in this country. Well, it will be a long time before we see a bowler's farewell Test appearance here this week, and I hope he gives us something to remember him by, even though the memory banks are already full to overflowing.

It would be even better, of course, if the fast bowler were running in for England. But we do not make ships or fast bowlers any more. At least, they do not come off the production line. As with Aston Martins, the quicks are hand-built and can take ages to arrive.

HAROLD LARWOOD would be pushing 94 now. Frank Tyson was 88 last month and Fred Trueman is a year younger. John Snow is the same age as Cliff Richard, which puts him somewhere between neolithic and mesolithic.

Snow was the last English fast bowler to get excited about. He looked harmless grating down at third man, with hands on thighs and nose thrown high as if to scent a passing gnat. In county cricket he usually was harmless, unless he looked up and saw Boycott or Barry Richards, who once satured the bowler at Hove after receiving a ball that swung in to middle stump before cutting away to flatten the off. But remember how he destroyed Australia in 1971.

Those of us who were in Australia in 1986-87, swaggering about as Mike Gatting's side won everything, would have enjoyed the experience even more if we knew we would have to wait so long for another major Test series win.

Meanwhile there are some things better than watching Donald bowl against England. Eighteen months ago, in South Africa, he tore in to bruise Australians. Now, that really was a joy to behold.

Simonsen set to become costliest keeper

Ian Ross

TRANMERE Rovers' Steve Simonsen is poised to become the most expensive goalkeeper in the history of British football at the tender age of 18.

Although the Tranmere manager John Aldridge has insisted at regular intervals throughout the summer that the England youth international will not be made available for transfer, his departure from Prenton Park — quite probably to Everton — seems inevitable.

Simonsen will cost at least £4 million, a figure which comfortably surpasses the current record of £2.4 million paid by Leeds United to Crystal Palace for the England international Nigel Martyn two years ago.

Three weeks ago Aldridge quoted what he described as a "non-negotiable" figure of £5 million when Sunderland attempted to buy him.

Although Everton would not be willing to invest quite so heavily in a player who has made only a handful of first-team appearances, they are prepared to offer a package which, in the fullness of time, could see Simonsen valued at £4.5 million.

Talks began in earnest late last week and, if Aldridge can be persuaded to accept a down payment of £3 million, Simonsen could move to Goodison Park early next week.

Everton's plan is to set up an instalment deal which would culminate in a final payment being handed over if Simonsen represents England at senior level.

Although the current Everton goalkeeper Thomas Myrnes was acclaimed as the natural successor to the veteran Neville Southall after a series of impressive performances last season, the Merseyside club's manager Walter Smith has reservations about the Norwegian international's ability at the highest level.

Ideally Smith would like to complete the signing of a new goalkeeper before the Premiership campaign opens on Saturday week.

Although Everton are not the only Premiership club to have expressed an interest in Simonsen — Arsenal have asked to be kept informed of developments — they would probably be given first option were he to be put up for sale simply because their chairman Peter Johnson was previously chairman at Tranmere.

Smith, since succeeding Howard Kendall six weeks ago, has spent more than £10 million on new players, an investment which would rise to around £17 million if he was to complete the signing of Simonsen and bring back the Aston Villa defender David Unsworth.

Tranmere are on the brink of re-signing the Manchester City midfielder Ged Brannan,



Saving as he earns... the £4 million-rated Steve Simonsen in action for England Under-18s last season. MICHAEL STEELE

who moved to City only 16 months ago for £750,000. The club have agreed an outline deal and Brannan has now to agree personal terms.

Liverpool's protracted search for a centre-back will end shortly with the arrival at Anfield of the German international Christian Wornas.

The 25-year-old Wornas, who represented his country in the World Cup finals — and was sent off against Croatia — is anxious to move to England even though he completed the formalities of a free transfer, under the Bosman ruling, between Bayer Leverkusen and Paris St-Germain only three weeks ago.

The French club may well decide to sell the unused Wornas because, with the player now safely under contract, they will be able to demand a fee of around £4.5 million.

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Hoddle picks up with a blend of youth

Martin Thorpe

GLENN HODDLE looked to the future yesterday and found familiar problems from the past as he announced a depleted 28-man squad for a two-day training get-together before England's opening European Championship qualifier in Sweden on September 5.

Club commitments have deprived him of all Arsenal and Liverpool players for the first gathering of the national squad since their World Cup ended in tears in St Etienne.

Even so, there is still no place for Paul Gascoigne, who has much to prove on and off the pitch if he is ever to win Hoddle's admiration. How-

ever, forgiveness has been shown to David Beckham after his moment of mid-summer madness and he will join the party at Blisland Abbey on August 15-16.

The get-together was the idea of the clubs. Mindful of their potential sensitivity to players being called up for a friendly day after the start of the new season, the Football

Association wrote to all the top clubs asking whether they would prefer England to play a game or have a get-together in this international-designated week. A training session got the nod.

However, Liverpool's visit to Southampton on August 16, plus Arsenal's game at home to Nottingham Forest the following day, has still deprived Hoddle of the likes of David Seaman, Tony Adams, Paul Ince, Steve McNamara and, of course, Michael Owen.

So Hoddle has decided to take a look at a group of up-and-coming players including Ipswich's highly rated Under-21 goalkeeper Richard Wright, his team-mate Kieron Dyer, the wing-back Carl Serrant, recently signed by Newcastle from Oldham, the Sheffield United forward Wayne Quinn, the Norwich winger Darren Eadie along with the strikers Emile Heskey of Leicester and Darren Huckerby of Coventry.

This represents continuity; all but Huckerby were in the last England B squad for the game against Russia in April.

These newcomers' collective joy will be matched by the

relief of others who had to suffer the disappointment of being jettisoned from the England squad days before the World Cup. Gascoigne said, Hoddle has shown renewed faith in five of the eight players who were cut from the pre-tournament 39 — Dion Dublin, Nicky Butt, Phil Neville and Andy Hinchcliffe, who were dropped, and Ian Wright who was injured. Andy Cole, who did not even make the 30, is also back in favour.

However, there is no place for the crucial penalty-taker against Argentina, David Batty. But this is not a punishment; the player must serve a five-match ban from the start of the season, so he is taking the opportunity to have an operation on a nagging injury.

The squad

The Players (Blackburn), Nigel Martyn (Leeds), Ian Wright (Tottenham), Richard Wright (Ipswich), Paul Scholes (Manchester United), Robert Lee (Norwich), Darren Eadie (Norwich), Emile Heskey (Leicester), Paul Scholes (Manchester United), Lee Partridge (Tottenham), Alan Shearer (Newcastle), Tony Stewart (Sheff Wed), Keith Curle (Sheff Wed), Andy Cole (Manchester United), Wayne Quinn (Sheff Wed), Carl Serrant (Newcastle), Kieron Dyer (Ipswich), Darren Huckerby (Coventry), Phil Neville (Manchester United), Nicky Butt (Manchester United), Dion Dublin (Sheff Wed), Andy Hinchcliffe (Sheff Wed), Ian Wright (West Ham), Andy Cole (Manchester United), Darren Eadie (Norwich), Emile Heskey (Leicester), Paul Scholes (Manchester United), Robert Lee (Norwich), Darren Huckerby (Coventry), Phil Neville (Manchester United), Nicky Butt (Manchester United), Dion Dublin (Sheff Wed), Andy Hinchcliffe (Sheff Wed), Ian Wright (West Ham), Andy Cole (Manchester United), Darren Eadie (Norwich), Emile Heskey 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